



# GOOD NEWS

VOLUME 27 NUMBER 3

FALL 2007

## From Our Pastor

### One Year Later

By Fr. Thomas J. Ryan

A little over a year ago, I assumed the pastorate of Immaculate Conception. Last summer I attended nine Listening Sessions, with over 200 parishioners representing about 175 families. These people were very gracious in welcoming me and in sharing their experiences, dreams and visions for their parish. This is a reflection on the major areas that were discussed.

One theme that resounded throughout the listening sessions was the desire for *spirituality*. With our Faith Formation program, prayer groups, Scripture series, Advent and Lenten Reflective Masses and other forms of prayer, we journey together as disciples. Our Lenten Mission with Fr. Daniel Francis was well attended and profoundly touched our hearts. I hope that annual missions will renew our spiritual lives. As Catholics, we are a Eucharistic community and our Sunday liturgies are the *center* of our parish life. *Your presence is important*. Please try to be on time, stay to the end and actively participate in the singing and prayer.

Many people commented on the importance of *Catholic Education* in our community. I agree and wholeheartedly support our I.C. School. The academic standards are high. Some of the best scores in English and Math on the State tests occur right here! Principal Sally Lisi and staff are devoted to our kids and *teaching the faith is integral* to our program. I attempt to be actively involved in the school and am delighted that we have such a good program and beautiful building to house our children. The new school endowment shows our firm commitment to the future of Catholic Education!

People asked me to clarify the financial situation of the parish. The Trustees, Finance Committee and I have attempted to be completely transparent regarding the finances. The parish incurred an average deficit of \$80,000 in three of the prior four years but I'm pleased to report that we are turning the corner. You heard the message and responded generously. The initial report for fiscal year 2006-07 shows a balanced budget and a reduction of the prior year's deficit. A detailed financial report is forthcoming.

This past year saw the successful fundraising for the *renovation of our pipe organ*. With the leadership of Peter Olson, the committee raised \$230,000 to refurbish the console and pipes. Our thanks and congratulations go to the committee and those who generously contributed to this important project.

Our *Youth Programs* have seen major changes with two new staff members coming on board; Lisa Matto, Coordinator of High School Faith Formation, and Kelly Colangelo Coordinator for Youth Services. Building on the strong program previously led by Susie Ritz, we are expanding efforts in the curriculum and social areas for our youth.

Over the year I have learned much. From the beginning it was clear to me that I.C. is a faith-filled community dedicated to the works of the Church and responsible stewardship, with emphasis on *charity*. You recognize that God has blessed us abundantly and we are called to share our gifts. With the offering of *Treasure* through our tithing program, we assist many local charities, including *Francis House, Oxford House, DePaul Day Care Center, Habitat for Humanity, Samaritan Center and Vera House*. With our recently expanded tithing, these and other charities will benefit from our sharing.

The gifts of *Time and Talent* are obvious on this campus. Our church and school are vibrant with the gifts of the people who work and volunteer here. Our new Green Team has done a fantastic job assisting our hardworking maintenance staff to keep up the landscaping. Over the summer some of our retirees painted the trim of the church and Rectory; others stained the school playground equipment. Your faith and vibrancy are contagious due to the many gracious offerings of assistance.

It has been an interesting year to companion with you and experience your way of being Church. I thoroughly enjoy being the pastor of this vibrant community. With the large size of our parish, I am very grateful for the valuable work of Sr. Monica and the assistance of Msgr. McCloskey and Msgr. Bill. The pastoral, office, music, maintenance and school staff people care deeply for this parish and give much of themselves. We are fortunate to have so many dedicated people.

Thank you for your many kindnesses this past year. Together let us go forward with our eyes fixed on Jesus.

God bless,

## Celebrating 60 Years of Selfless Service

By Kelly Ann Kelly

On September 22, I.C. parishioners were temporarily transported to Hawaii to celebrate Sr. Monica Zmolek's six decades in religious life. Unseasonably warm weather, leis and tropical fruits and flowers recalled Sister's 15 years of service in Hawaii.

The celebration began with Mass. Dozens of sisters of the Third Franciscan Order of Syracuse joined parishioners to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> jubilees of Sr. Monica and fellow Franciscan Sr. Cornelia Ann of Utica. Presider Fr. Ryan was joined by concelebrants Msgr. McCloskey and Msgr. Bill.

Sr. Monica gave the homily. "I do this once every 60 years," she quipped. Reading about Blessed Marianne Cope's work with Hansen's disease (leprosy) patients in Hawaii "instilled in me a deep desire to give my whole life to the Lord. I wanted to do something magnanimous." In 1947, Monica joined Mother Marianne's order, the Franciscan sisters in Syracuse. After teaching in Syracuse for a few years, Sister's wish to serve in Hawaii was granted. During 15 years there, Monica earned a teaching degree, worked in elementary education and administration and assisted in the leper colony.

The most important thing she learned in her years as a sister, she said, was "how very much God loves each one of us. His love is so extravagant and so constant."

A reception in Dwyer Hall followed. Mark Olson provided the catering, with carving stations, appetizers, salads and tables overflowing with fruits (with lots of pineapple, of course). The food tables were adorned with magnificent centerpieces of Hawaiian flowers, donated by a friend of the Franciscan sisters in Maui and arranged by Sr. Michaeleen Cabral. Among the guests was Msgr. Robert J. Yeazel, who hired Sr. Monica to be our Parish Minister 20 years ago when he was pastor of I.C.



(Photo courtesy of Alex Ottaviano)

Fayetteville Mayor and parishioner Mark Olson provided the delicious appetizers, salads and entrees for the reception in honor of Sr. Monica Zmolek's 60<sup>th</sup> Jubilee.

Initially, Sister's duties at I.C. centered on visiting the sick, hospitalized and homebound. She also established the Bereavement Committee. Now she works with the Liturgy Committee, trains providers for the Friday morning Communion services, conducts prayers at funeral parlors and runs wedding rehearsals. Sr. Monica belongs to the Prayer and Social Ministry and contributes to the I.C. Good News. She serves on the Board of Trustees for St. Joseph's Hospital and the Oneness in Peace House of Prayer in Germantown, New York. She traveled with the

Continued on Page 2

## New Website Unveiled: [www.ic-parish.com](http://www.ic-parish.com)

By Ana Morley

I.C. Parish recently unveiled a new state-of-the-art, interactive website. Just type [www.ic-parish.com](http://www.ic-parish.com) in your Internet browser to get information about all the latest parish events and happenings.

Once logged on, you'll be greeted by Matthew 7:7, "Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be open to you."

The site was the brain-child of "Web Angel" Kelley Kriesel, a freelance website engineer and parishioner, who saw a need for it. She launched this pro-bono project last year to assist anyone needing answers to questions about our church. With Alex Ottaviano, a parish leader and professional photographer, Kelley created a site full of simple and thoughtful details. Alex notes, "With so much information in our parish and so many great things going on, this seemed like the right way to bring it to the parishioners, right into their homes."

Browsing the site, with its many images of parish members and staff, offers the feeling of bringing a sacred, familiar place into your workspace. The site displays Mass times, contact information and announcements about church-sponsored events. There are links to Catholic resource sites and a catalogue of all the ministries sponsored by I.C. Updates can be found at the "I.C. up-to-the minute" section. A colorful and lively page for school-aged children and one aimed at the spiritual needs of teenagers are under development. The latest copies of the church Bulletin and I.C. Good News are also available. Without a doubt, [ic-parish.com](http://ic-parish.com) is a unique gift of stewardship to the parish.

Kelley had this to say about the weekly hours she gives to site maintenance, "I thoroughly enjoy it. I consider it a great



"Kelley Kriesel and Alex Ottaviano spread the good news about I.C. Parish through cyberspace at [www.ic-parish.com](http://www.ic-parish.com)."

opportunity to provide something for the church that others might not be able to." She was generous in her thanks to the many people who have offered support to the project especially Kelly Colangelo, Lisa Matto, Lisa Pilewski and Jackie Rhodes.

Kelley and Alex hope the site will blossom into a fully interactive and often-used resource, connecting the parish community to their church around the clock from any location. They invite all parishioners, visitors and ministry leaders to familiarize themselves with the site. Click on the smiley face "Webangel" at the bottom of the screen to submit information, comments or questions to the site. With so much to offer, [ic-parish.com](http://ic-parish.com) is sure to become a favorite link.



GOOD NEWS

CHURCH OF THE  
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
400 SALT SPRINGS STREET  
FAYETTEVILLE, NY 13066

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Fayetteville, New York  
Permit No. 36

## I.C. School News

### Principal's Corner

By Sally Lisi

The leaves are turning, balloons are waving in the air and BIG yellow buses are lined up in front of school! It can only mean one thing; a new school year has begun. One of the best moments for me is the first day of school, standing in front of school and greeting the students as they arrive. It is such a wonderful feeling to see the sparkle in their eyes and to hear the laughter as they see old friends and meet new ones.



(Photo courtesy of Caroline Agor-Calimlim)

Principal Sally Lisi personally greeted students arriving at I.C. School on the first day of class, including sisters Gabriella, Maria and Mary Grace Oliva.



(Photo courtesy of Caroline Agor-Calimlim)

Please welcome new I.C. School teachers Nancy Palmer, Doreen Conrad and Sue Rivito.

I am pleased to welcome three new staff members. **Doreen Conrad** joined our staff in February as a kindergarten teacher. She has a Masters in Elementary Education. **Susan Rivito**, also a kindergarten teacher, has a Masters with a concentration in Inclusive Childhood Education. **Nancy Palmer** teaches Reading for first and second grade along with both sixth grade Reading groups. She has her Masters in Special Ed. with a



concentration in Reading and brings with her ten exceptional years of experience.

I.C. School supports and partners with parents, who are the primary educators. Many people don't realize that our classroom teachers must have not only the necessary teaching credentials and yearly in-service hours, but also must attain their Religious Certification with annual updates. In the words of the prominent Catholic educator Dr. Elinor Ford, who addressed our faculty over the summer, Catholic school teachers "are dedicated not only to their professions but also in their love of God."



(Photo courtesy of Caroline Agor-Calimlim)

Fr. Ryan preaching to the choir—and all the rest of the I.C. School students at the Opening of School Mass, September 13.

We have four goals for this school year.

- 1. Catholic Identity:** To increase our community outreach at all grade levels.
- 2. Reading:** All years will focus on Language Arts with monthly reading themes and adventures.
- 3. Science:** With the theme "How Green Is I.C.?" our science program will examine the ways we can each improve the environment.
- 4. Healthy School:** We are developing a wellness policy to improve student health and nutrition with increased physical activity, limiting sweets in the classroom and providing nutritional information to students and parents.

I thank Fr. Ryan for his support and his many visits to the classrooms. Thanks also to Msgr. McCloskey for visiting and sharing his humor, our staff for their dedication, our parents for their faith and, most importantly, you the parishioner, for your generous support of our school. I look forward to a great school year and ask for your continued prayers and thoughts.

## Parishioners Spruce up Devotional Gardens

By Kelly Ann Kelly

Parish volunteers spent countless hours rebuilding and replanting the Gardens of Life and Hope and the grotto over the summer.

In the Garden of Life, the open-air courtyard visible from the corridor between the rectory and Dwyer Hall, Bob Kelly installed a pond, a winding path, new flowers and a statue of St. Francis. Across the corridor, drawing inspiration from gardens kept by 12<sup>th</sup> century monks, Kristen Palozzoli added many medicinal and biblical plants to the Garden of Hope. At the suggestion of daughters Kathleen, Julia and Clara—all I.C. School students—plants with blue or white flowers were used to match the school colors.

Vi and Walt Pasternak joined Bob Kelly in revamping the shrine to our Blessed Mother in the grotto next to the convent, with new plantings and a new retaining wall. Stones saved from old barns that were demolished on the church property several years ago were used to repair the walls of the grotto and the pond in the Garden of Life.



A statue of St. Francis of Assisi graces the rejuvenated Garden of Life outside Dwyer Hall corridor.

### Sister Monica continued from page 1

Syracuse delegation to Rome in May 2005 for the beatification of Blessed Marianne Cope.

Sr. Monica and I recently discussed her years of service. Excerpts from the interview follow. The full transcript is available on the I.C. Good News webpage at [www.ic-parish.com](http://www.ic-parish.com).

**Kelly:** What do you most enjoy about your work?

Sr. Monica: I enjoy being able to help people, working with people to help others. More and more I work with others, not just alone, to help people. I appreciate the opportunity for daily prayer and annual retreats. I live at the I.C. convent with four other sisters (Sr. Ferdinand, Sr. David Marie, Sr. Eleanor Grace and Sr. Francis James).

Visiting the sick is very gratifying work. Unless families call and let us know someone is in need, we don't know. Hospitals don't call us. We're grateful when someone lets us know that someone is in the hospital or homebound and wants to receive Communion.

**What made a young woman from Iowa want to go to Hawaii to work with lepers?**

I'd never met any of the Sisters of St. Francis until the day I entered. I wanted to work in Molokai. I'd read about Mother Marianne Cope. I desired to give my life totally to something for God.

At the school in Hawaii, we had to practice for tsunamis. We had to take the kids to a nearby field. And we had to prepare for earthquakes. Like we had fire drills, we also had drills for tsunamis and earthquakes.

**Will you ever retire?**

We never retire from being a Sister. We might retire from a certain ministry or we might work part-time or change to something not so demanding.

I think it would be so delightful to go to Hawaii in my later years and sell leis when I change ministries. Maybe someday my life will be exciting, but for right now I'm satisfied with it.

## AVOW Study Group, Breakfast for Women Offered

By Karen Stein

Good news from AVOW International Center! Study Groups for Women are starting soon. AVOW stands for Advocating the Vocation of Women. It's a local Catholic organization dedicated to advancing the dignity of women and promoting our authentic roles as revealed in the Word of God. AVOW offers conferences, study groups and a monthly newsletter.

AVOW's courses are based on Scriptures, the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the writings of well-respected Catholic thinkers. Women meeting and sharing their faith and life experiences will discover the inspiring truth of the New Feminism, as defined by Pope John Paul II. Our first course, on John Paul II's "Letter to Women," will run for eight weeks beginning October 10. You can register and purchase study materials at [www.endowonline.com](http://www.endowonline.com) or by calling (303) 715-3224. Scholarships are available. No homework is required. Contact Jackie Rhodes (637-9840) or Kathy Hixson (655-8594) for information.

Please join us for the AVOW Breakfast for Women on November 10 at Justin's Grill, Carrier Circle. Our speaker is Dawn Eden, author of "The Thrill of the Chaste." Tickets are \$30. Reservations are required and seating is limited. For more information, contact Karen Stein, 655-3837 or [karentkc@aol.com](mailto:karentkc@aol.com).

## Women of IC Plan Events

By Stephanie Antshel

School is back in session, fall is upon us and the daily grind of driving children to sports practice, music lessons and other activities has taken over any semblance of peace we may have found this summer! After a brief summer hiatus, the Women of I.C. are gearing up for a year full of activities. The annual Wine and Cheese Reception will be held on Wednesday, October 24 at 7 p.m. in Dwyer Hall. It is a wonderful evening for the women of the parish to enjoy tasty hors d'oeuvres, wine and conversation with friends old and new, as well as to learn about the Women of I.C. and how to get involved.

The Women of I.C. will be busy this year! We will make and serve a meal at the Samaritan Center this winter. Late winter will bring a follow-up to the highly successful March Makeover Madness event, which debuted this past March. The Parish Picnic, typically held in early June, is also organized by our group.

All of our events include a charitable aspect. Funds raised from our events are donated to a designated charity or cause within I.C. or the community at large. Through the generosity of the women who attended our events last year, we were able to purchase art supplies for the Northside CYO. We also donated to the Organ Fund and a portion of this year's Parish Picnic proceeds went to Chuck McKeever's collection for schools affected by Hurricane Katrina.

We welcome women of all ages to join our lively group. The Women of I.C. typically meet once a month at Church. In addition to our annual events, we also coordinate the Circle of Care to provide meals to parish families going through life-altering times (such as a birth, sickness or death in the family). Please contact Stephanie Antshel at 637-2151 or [kantshel@twcny.rr.com](mailto:kantshel@twcny.rr.com) for more information. We hope to see you soon!

## Faith Formation News

### Faith in Action

By Lisa Pilewski

The Faith Formation program welcomes back all our wonderful children and their families! Classes began on September 23 and we look forward to another fun year. The Sunday class times changed due to the new Mass schedule. The 9:25 a.m. class has moved to 10:10 a.m. to give families time to celebrate with our faith community at either 9 a.m. or the new 11 a.m. Mass. Thanks to all of the wonderful folks who have generously agreed to teach this year. You bless our parish tremendously!

Talk about blessings to our parish family would be incomplete without including our phenomenal Vacation Bible School program. Can I get a "wa-hoo"? This year's Avalanche Ranch was an overwhelming success. It was the most well attended VBS program in our history, due in large part to the efforts of the inimitable Alex Ottaviano. What a gift she gives to the children each year! We also thank her posse of talented and enthusiastic volunteers. It was a great thing to witness so many people WITNESSING! We hope to see you all next year at the Power Lab VBS, where we will be discovering Jesus' miraculous power.

Children's Liturgy also resumed in September. If you feel called to help with this little gem of a ministry please call Jackie Rhodes at 637-9840 and let her know!

Hundreds of photos from VBS and Alex's daily blog entries are posted on the parish website, [www.ic-parish.com](http://www.ic-parish.com). Click the "Kids @ I.C." button to visit the Avalanche Ranch site.



Lisa Pilewski (center, wearing cowboy hat) leads a group of VBS students in a craft.

**Note our New Webpage  
& New Email Address**

The I.C. Good News has found a new home in cyberspace at [www.ic-parish.com](http://www.ic-parish.com). Additional content, contact information, submission guidelines and deadlines are available on the site. Click on the Good News logo on the parish homepage to go to our webpage.

Our new email address is [GoodNews@ic-parish.com](mailto:GoodNews@ic-parish.com). Please make a note of these changes and visit us at our new site.

## Lifelines

### October is Respect Life Month

By Matt and Suzanne Davidson

*"Where two or more of you are gathered in my name, there will I be also"*

(Matthew 18:20)

In honor of Respect Life month, the Culture of Life Committee will hold our annual Culture of Life Prayer Service on Monday, October 22 at 7 p.m. We'll offer prayers of thanksgiving for the gift of life and petitions for God's healing grace in our world through exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction and the rosary. The evening concludes with refreshments. We hope you can join us.

For a second summer, the Culture of Life Committee sponsored monthly Rosaries for Life in the I.C. grotto. People of all ages came together to pray for grace, guidance and reparation regarding life issues. The weather was beautiful and the turnout was very strong, between 25 and 50 people each month. A strong contingent of young people and many families from surrounding parishes attended. Intercessions for life were shared before each rosary and ice cream was enjoyed after. The Rosary for Life proved to be a simple but powerful summer vocation. Next spring, look for our summer schedule and join the growing number of people participating in the Rosary for Life.

Please contact us at [sdavid2@twcny.rr.com](mailto:sdavid2@twcny.rr.com) or 637-2361 with any questions.

## Youth Ministry News

### Keeping Teens Connected

#### Meet Our New Youth Ministers



Our new Youth Ministers, Lisa Matto (left) and Kelly Colangelo (right).

By Patricia Marzola

Susie Ritz's relocation to Denver in June left a void in our Youth Ministry. Enter parishioner and mother of two, Lisa Matto, and recent Niagara University graduate, Kelly Colangelo, in the two new positions created to fill that void.

#### Lisa Matto

Lisa is our new High School Faith Formation Coordinator, a title she challenges people to say three times quickly. Her responsibilities include securing Confirmation teachers, developing a curriculum she hopes teens will relate to, booking speakers, planning service projects, symposiums and retreats, and planning Confirmation.

Lisa and her husband had been recently discussing her plans for the future when the job opening was posted. Lisa felt this was "a sign from the Big Guy." As a former English and literature teacher at CBA, Lisa enjoys the energy and honesty of teens noting that "they are a very sophisticated, caring group of individuals who will be a very positive influence in the I.C. community."

There was also a more personal reason that Lisa, an alumnus of St. Charles elementary school and Bishop Ludden High School, was attracted to the job. Back during her own Confirmation days (circa 1979), the deacon at St. Charles Church was none other than I.C.'s Pastor, Tom Ryan. They hadn't seen each other since then but the connection and trust that had been established many years ago still remained.

#### Kelly Colangelo

As Coordinator of Youth Services, Kelly is responsible for high school service projects including Confirmation, liturgical/spiritual and social activities.

Kelly grew up as a parishioner of St. John the Baptist Parish in Rome, New York. At Niagara University she majored in Psychology and minored in Theology and Communication. During summers, Kelly interned with the Youth Ministry Program at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in New Hartford. She worked closely with the teens and the experience quickly became "an integral part" of her life. She also credits her experience at Niagara, a Vincentian college that encourages students to make a difference in the world, with getting her involved in social justice, community service and leadership development. Kelly attends graduate school at Syracuse University.

#### Youth Ministry Program Changes

Fr. Ryan says, "This looks to be an exciting year for our youth. As we build on a strong foundation already in place, we are looking to revamp the curriculum on the high school level as well as the social and spiritual activities offered."

Lisa's main goal is to help kids "gain a relationship with God and a foundation for their faith." She wants teens to know that "although their faith may be challenged at times, they will always have God and their parish to love and support them." Kelly's current focus is meeting all the teens and getting them excited about the new events and trips. She would like to build a leadership team and build on community outreach using her core leaders.

Confirmation candidate Meaghan Anklin likes the new direction. She said Kelly and Lisa's choice of speaker, Sr. Nora Gatto D.C. of Niagara University made the Confirmation Retreat interesting. She calls their ideas "awesome," and says she may stay involved with the Youth Group after Confirmation because Lisa and Kelly "make it fun."

Lisa and Kelly want the I.C. community to know that they are committed to jumpstarting the Youth Program with events and activities teens want to participate in. Kelly asks that teens stop by and introduce themselves. She encourages everyone to check [www.ic-parish.com](http://www.ic-parish.com) for the latest information. You may contact her or Lisa at 637-2375 or via e-mail at [ic-youth@twcny.rr.com](mailto:ic-youth@twcny.rr.com).

### IC Teen Lends Southern Comfort



Busloads of school supplies were collected for New Orleans students by I.C. teen, Chuck McKeever.

By Patricia Marzola

Over the summer, I.C. parishioner and F.M. High School senior Chuckie McKeever collected school supplies for students in New Orleans affected by Hurricane Katrina. Collection boxes at church were filled and refilled. Someone left a \$100 check, another donated a \$500 Target card and \$850 in cash was given. With the school supplies and sports supplies donated by local churches, two eighteen wheeler trucks were filled.

In April, Chuckie and his mother Cathy traveled to New Orleans with a relief group called Southern Comfort, led by Norm Andrejewski of St. Joseph the Worker Church in Liverpool. There the high school senior spent his time lending hands-on help to the relief group's construction team. This summer, Chuckie still wanted to help so he went on a second trip with Southern Comfort and began the school supply drive.

Chuckie points out that many confuse the condition of the French Quarter, which was virtually untouched, with the outlying areas, that are still devastated. He thinks work in the Ninth Ward, where about three-quarters of the homes were flattened, may take 10-15 years to complete.

Chuckie is quick to recommend that others also take this journey. He learned that he is capable of more than he knew and that one person can make a difference. In addition to the great cultural experience, his strongest memory will be the gratitude of the people of New Orleans. On his first trip, Chuckie helped a fisherman who was unable to pay him in money. He cooked a homemade gumbo for Chuckie as a way of saying thanks. That feeling of appreciation may well lead Chuckie McKeever to New Orleans again.

### IC High School Senior Visits Europe

By Mary Hotaling

William Hotaling, a senior at Fayetteville-Manlius High School spent part of his summer vacation touring Europe. For three weeks he performed in various cities throughout France, Germany, Austria, and Switzerland with the American Music Abroad Program Honors Band and Choir. He played the bass clarinet for the band and sang Tenor with the Choir. Along with approximately 100 other members of the group, Will performed in many different venues during this performance tour. A few of those included the famous church of Bach, St. Thomaskirche, in Leipzig, Germany and St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna, Austria. Some concerts were held outdoors in places like Stadtpark in Dinkelsbühl, Germany and at the base of the Alps at Mayrhofen Musik Pavilion in Austria.

When the group wasn't performing, they spent their days visiting the many wonderful attractions including the homes of famous composers Bach, Mozart and Mendelssohn. They visited the Dresden Opera House in Germany and the Vienna State Opera House. The three weeks also included visits to Wartburg Castle in Eisenach, Germany and the Shonbrunn Palace.

A few personal highlights for Will were a visit to the Memorial of the World War II Concentration Camp at Buchenwald and a gondola trip to the top of the Alps. After walking the last leg of the trip, reaching the peak and enjoying the views, visitors were encouraged to share their thoughts in a journal posted at the peak. William's entry reads: "I am but one step from Heaven!"



I.C. Teen William Hotaling during his summer tour performing in Europe.

## A Certain Place to Pray

By Lynn-Beth Satterly, M.D.

Recently I made a weekend retreat at the Abbey of the Genesee, a Trappist Monastery in Piffard, New York. I believe that it is a good and necessary practice to sometimes go away to a “certain place to pray” (Luke 11:1). Silent retreats, however brief, give me a different way to hear the voice of God beyond the usual ways God speaks to me in the whirlwind of life as a wife, mother, doctor and parishioner.

Sometimes when I depart for a silent retreat, I have a sort of spiritual agenda of what I might reflect upon. This year there was nothing pressing I needed to figure out, nothing I was consciously holding back from God and nothing particularly weighing heavily on my heart. Agenda-less, I arrived at the abbey. After a simple but tasty dinner, there was a brief welcome by the Prior, Fr. Jerome, followed by night prayers with the monks and other retreatants. Then I was on my own with God.

My intention was to open myself in silence and allow myself to sleep without setting an alarm. What a delight to do these things in the peace of a monastery with a chapel mere steps from my room where Mass is celebrated regularly and the Eucharist is ever present. I was welcome to attend the Liturgy of the Hours and Mass with the monks or meet with the spiritual director.

Fr. Jerome suggested that when reading the Word, one should feel free to remain with a particularly moving phrase or verse to let its meaning seep into one’s heart. This could take days or even years. He said that one should use all in life—movies, stories and daily life experiences—to fuel the imagination to help expose personal meaning in the words. He also suggested that a “certain place to pray” might just be the depth of one’s heart.

Moved by his wisdom, I settled in to pray. I selected the book of Hosea, to which I’ve always had a particular attraction and frequently return. A passage from chapter 2 puzzled me:

*You will be my spouse forever,  
Betrothed in justice and integrity;  
We will be united in love and tenderness.  
I will espouse you in faithfulness  
And you will come to know Yahweh.*

At first the verse seemed intended for a monk, not a married woman doctor toting a laptop as a journal. Could the Holy One have gotten the spiritual URL incorrect?

There is the ancient meaning of the verse in the context of Hosea and his unfaithful wife Gomer and the metaphorical meaning in the context of God’s relationship to the Israelites or even the Church. In what context was the verse also intended for me, and not *only* for me but for us all? I reflected, slept, prayed with the monks and other retreatants, then reflected, read and prayed some more. I came to understand that the external forms of our lives, our vocations—to single life, marriage, the priesthood, cloistered life, work and service—are the contexts in which we are betrothed to God as God’s beloveds. The contexts in which we define ourselves are not as important as our attempts to live our commitments faithfully and to concern ourselves with loving rather than being loved.

We come to know and are espoused to Yahweh through relationship with others, self and God. Once I figured out the first part, I understood the best part; that God woos us and remains faithful even when we do not. The problem is that when we are not faithful and are not grounded in regular prayer, we don’t notice the Sutor and the Sutor’s pervasive grace in the varied contexts of our lives.

In these turbulent times, when differences in perspective and rigid adherence to ideology without reflection, dialogue and graciousness cause defensiveness and dissonance, this is a welcome and soothing insight. May we live in and from “that certain place” and may we be united in love and tenderness.

## The Gift of the Moment

By Alex Ottaviano

I had a hard time getting organized this fall. With kids back in school, there should be more time to get stuff done, but it seemed like there was just more stuff to do. I even felt like I was praying on borrowed time, with little more than a quick prayer as I ran from place to place.

I was also walking a few days each week. I wanted it to be relaxing but kept mentally going over my calendar and planning all I needed to. I listened to XM channel 32, “The Message,” hoping the spiritual music would keep me from ending up more worried than when I began. One day, it just wasn’t working.

No matter how loud the music, all I heard was a long, entirely unrealistic litany of things to do. The pleasant words and music only made me think how unrealistic it was to find time for something MORE IMPORTANT in my life.

I decided to turn back early since all I was doing was getting sweaty and annoyed. As I turned to go, my music stopped. After angrily fiddling with it, an unexpected song and some unexpected company made me stop and take a deeper look at the snit I was in.

When the sound came back I heard a voice I knew well. You may not know Steven Curtis Chapman’s name but all our VBS kids know his songs. His “Great Adventure” was our theme song at Avalanche Ranch. I smiled remembering the fun and fellowship at VBS. Every craft, lesson and snack was a reminder that Christ is with us. This smile was the first thing in two miles to crack through my black mood.

Maybe it was the smile, the memories or the words he was singing, but I suddenly realized that my black mood was my own fault. I believed I had to live with my busy schedule, but did I really? I was so busy planning for the next moment that I was missing the moment I was living. All around me, my God was trying to catch my attention but I kept turning my head and telling Him I was too busy to listen. God was handing me a gift with each moment and I was telling him that I had better things to do than pay attention to it. But surely God appreciated the important things I had to do...or did He?

I closed my eyes and took a deep breath. The air smelled of sweet, turning leaves. How had I missed that before? The sun was softer than in July when I walked this trail. As I opened my eyes I realized I hadn’t seen a blue or green dragonfly all day; the dragonflies were as red as ripe apples. I felt guilty for not noticing this sooner and said a little prayer of apology and thanksgiving as I remembered what I was supposed to do with the precious gift of time.

With thankfulness in my heart, my mood lightened and I decided to walk on. Then I met some unexpected company. A huge stag was standing about 20 feet away, staring right at me. How long had this beautiful creature of God been there? In my black mood I’d almost missed an amazing moment. As I reached for my cell phone to take a picture a runner came along from behind me. The deer was spooked. I missed the shot. I started to complain to myself about the missed opportunity but then my new mood kicked in. I realized that even without a photo to prove what I’d seen, I still had the gift of that moment. I walked on with my step a bit lighter, my mood a bit brighter and a prayer of thanksgiving for that moment in my heart and on my lips.

I still had things to do that day but I approached them with an eye toward God, instead of with my back turned. And that’s quite a gift.

## A Strong Opinion

### Wanted: Halo Polishers

By Bob Strong

The next time you go to Mass take a minute to look at the songbooks, missals and religious articles placed on the bookracks and neatly arranged on the clean tables at the entrance. Notice that the Holy Water font you use—one of five in the church—is clean and filled.



**Super I.C. Angel Jane Jones led the Altar Society for more than two decades.**

When you reach your pew, kneel and begin your prayers, look toward the altar

and focus on the clean, pressed altar cloth adorned with candleholders that are wax-free, clean and polished. And when Mass begins, notice the fresh, pressed linen cloths Father uses. I’ll bet you think some good fairies—or at Christmas, Santa’s elves—did those chores.

I did some checking and found out it’s not fairies or elves, it’s angels.

The 15 members of the I.C. Altar Society take care of those little-noticed details that go unrecognized but help make the parish function effectively. I mention these I.C. angels now so you can tell them how much you appreciate their donation of time and talent.

The first one on my list is Jane Jones, a member of the Altar Society for many years and its coordinator until she retired earlier this year. She told me, “Things are different now than they were years ago at the old church, when Msgr. Dwyer was here. The altar was much higher and had steeples at each end and we had to get a ladder to climb up and clean and polish them. We met once a month and decided who would do what. One person would decide who would wash and iron the linens and who would wash and iron the huge altar cloth. Today, the chores can be easily assigned since everyone has a phone.”

I asked Jane why she retired and she said, “I’m 92 years old. I guess it was about time.” I really think I will put the word “super” before her title of I.C. angel.

Since February 1, Alyce McNamara has served as coordinator. The names of the other current members are Marion Swanson (treasurer), Marilyn Beattie, Rose Ann Caporuscio, Rosemary DeJoseph, Dawn Jones, Betty Michaud, Gert Mathews, Anneita O’Dwyer, Kathie Beecher, Alice Craw, Julie Ehrich, Pauline Fitzpatrick and Regina Noone.

These angels clean, polish, dust and straighten the “wheels, nuts and bolts” of the parish. If you know one of these ladies or you are introduced to one of them, take time to thank her and maybe polish her halo.

## The Road to Amais

On July 2 the Amais (a-MAY-us) Health Services clinic, located in the Cathedral Emergency Services Center at 259 East Onondaga Street in Syracuse, opened its facilities to patients in need of free or low-cost health care or medications. This is the first in a series of initiatives that Cathedral rector Msgr. Neal Quartier is developing to better meet the needs of the underserved. Its staff, including I.C. parishioner Dr. Lynn-Beth Satterly, provides compassionate interim primary care to those of limited means who are between health care providers or lack insurance.

Amais will provide quality medical care and help with social services to underserved individuals, while providing health care professionals a gratifying service-centered experience.

Operating fewer than 10 hours per week, the clinic served 20 patients in its first two months and Dr. Satterly expects continued growth. “We will need to expand our hours soon and we will need more volunteer docs who can provide primary care, more nurses, more supplies, more funding, and eventually more space. And we always need prayer!” Amais has a wish list for the following items: an automated defibrillator, a portable oxygen unit and an EKG machine.

To tour Amais or learn more about it, visit their website at [www.cathedralsyracuse.org](http://www.cathedralsyracuse.org) or contact Dr. Satterly, at 427-7110 or [satterll@upstate.edu](mailto:satterll@upstate.edu).

Amais is Hebrew for Emmaus, the town outside Jerusalem where Christ walked with two disciples, who did not initially recognize Him, on Easter Sunday. As Dr. Satterly explains, “The disciples had to take a close look to recognize Christ and finally did when they shared something of deep meaning (Eucharist). The staff of Amais seek to see Christ in those whom we serve and in each other, and to act in response to that recognition.”

## Social Ministry News

### Social Ministry Hosts Pool Party



(Photo courtesy of Nancy Shepard)

On July 12, Liberian refugee Frances Morris, her eight grandchildren and daughter Sophia Jackson, attended a pool party put on by the Social Ministry Committee at Walt and Nancy Shepard’s house. The kids had a great time in the pool, and the pot luck dishes were delicious. Everyone tried a delicious Libyan spicy meat and rice dish prepared by Frances Morris. Ministry members Peg McCarthy, Mary Anne Brady, Betty Fuda, Lois Collier, Norma Kelley, Nancy Shepard and Signe McGowan helped.

Volume 27, Number 3

Fall 2007

### I.C. Good News

Published by Immaculate Conception Church  
400 Salt Springs Street - Fayetteville, New York 13066

Telephone: 637-9846

Email: [GoodNews@ic-parish.com](mailto:GoodNews@ic-parish.com)

Rev. Thomas J. Ryan, *Pastor*

Kelly Ann Kelly, *Editor-in-chief*

Ana Morley, *Senior Editor*

Mary Carr, *Editor*

*Distribution Coordinator:* Julie Trop

*Proofreaders:* Elaine LaFollette, Wendy Loughlin and Suzanne Johnston

*Typists:* Maureen Cirillo, Priscilla Leavitt Lenning and Judy Breed

*I.C. Good News is a free quarterly newspaper created by parish volunteers.*

*Visit our new webpage at [www.ic-parish.com](http://www.ic-parish.com)*