

Happy Birthday Monsignor McCloskey

By Stephanie Antshel

Have you ever had a birthday party with 500 of your closest friends and family? Not many of us can say we have, but that is the number of parishioners, friends and relatives who came to wish our beloved Monsignor James McCloskey a happy 90th birthday on April 10.

An impressive number of volunteers helped to make the day special. Music was provided by Tom Reitano and was a perfect addition to the festive atmosphere in Dwyer Hall. The I.C. School and the Faith Formation students created an enormous birthday card for Monsignor that hung on the wall in Dwyer Hall. It took two ladders, half a dozen people and a ton of duck tape to hang! Balloon bouquets adorned each table.

Theresa Letcher and a crew of helpers made much of the delicious food including beef tenderloin, turkey breast and strawberry poppy seed salad. The Cookie Club provided about a 1,000 cookies, which were not only delicious but also beautiful!

A highlight of the afternoon was the unveiling of Monsignor's surprise gift; a beautiful, weather-resistant statue of the Blessed Family. Parishioners were invited to contribute to the cost of the statue. The response was overwhelming! Approximately 640 parishioners contributed. The statue will be displayed in the courtyard near the Rectory so that all who come to visit I.C. will see it. A bronze plaque donated by Amanda and Joe Drake commemorates the event and will sit at the base of the statue.

The celebrations continued the next day, Monsignor's actual birthday. Monsignor McCloskey officiated at a special I.C. School Mass on the morning of April 11. Each class gave him handmade cards and gifts. Monsignor also received a photo album filled with pictures of him with the children through the years. The school choir led the assembly in singing "Happy Birthday" and the "Irish Blessing" song. After Mass, a group of parishioners who regularly attend Monsignor McCloskey's 9 a.m. Mass presented him with their gift, a new chasuble.

It is apparent that Monsignor is a well-loved man. Children, teens, adults and seniors alike hold this very special man close to their hearts. Happy 90th Birthday, Monsignor!

You can view many more photos from all the birthday celebrations on our website, www.ic-parish.com/ICGoodNews.htm.



Monsignor James McCloskey appears with the statue of the Blessed Family he received as a gift from the parish for his 90th birthday.

(Photo courtesy of Caroline Agor-Catimim)

Picnic Brightens Gray Day

By Kelly Ann Kelly and Ana Morley

The dedicated members of the Women of I.C. put countless hours into organizing and hosting the annual parish picnic, rain or shine. This year's picnic, held on June 12, brightened the overcast day with delicious food, fun games and an "unbirthday" celebration. About 350 advance tickets were sold.

In addition to the familiar picnic fare, Liehs and Steigerwald Catering of Syracuse served their tasty homemade sausages and samples of Italian entrees. Desserts were made by the I.C. Cookie Club. Entertainment included carnival games and kick ball for the children, face painting and bingo. Jason Jeffers was the DJ.

There was also a surprise "unbirthday cake" for Monsignor Ronald Bill, who turned 80 on May 27. Monsignor modestly declined to have a parish birthday party but the Women of I.C. wanted to acknowledge and celebrate him somehow. They decided to have an "unbirthday" celebration, with a sheet cake bearing the number of days he'd lived to date (29,156).

Maureen Whelan and Lisa Hall chaired the picnic committee. Stephanie Hausladen and her family ran the carnival games. Liz VanInderstine created the balloon decorations. Janis Marchitelli and Jane Witz headed up the raffle. Among the spectacular prizes were a pair of Adirondack chairs handcrafted by Richard Resig, a 20-inch flat screen TV donated by the Caputo family, a week in a cottage on Skaneateles Lake donated by Thomas and Carolyn Simon, a photograph session with Stephanie Antshel and Lia Sophia jewelry and gift certificate donated by Deanna Ingram. The Women of I.C. donated a gas grill and an iPod Touch.

The Women of I.C. wish to thank all the volunteers and parish staff, especially Janis Soule, Ann Resig, Kelly Colangelo and Steve Kelly, who helped make the picnic a success.

The day began on a sober note when it was discovered that one of the three tents set up for the picnic the night before was missing. In a generous gesture of community support, the F-M High School Crew Team saved the day by providing three long tents. Thanks go to Larry Gallagher for arranging that loan. The Manlius Police Department is investigating the theft.



Monsignor Ronald Bill was surprised to receive an "unbirthday" cake at the annual parish picnic.

(Photo courtesy of Ana Morley)

I.C. Hosts Concert for Amaus

By Ana Morley



(Photo courtesy of Ana Morley)

Parishioner Joseph Cambareri was one of the performers at the concert to benefit Amaus Health Services.

I.C. played host to the second annual Benefit Concert for Amaus Health Services in Syracuse on May 21. The gleeful event was organized by parishioners Sherrie Hale and Darien Clark and showcased dozens of talented musicians for a night of musical celebration.

Amaus Health Services is a free medical clinic for the homeless, underemployed and under-insured led by parishioner Dr. Lynn-Beth Satterly. Satterly recently received a Post-Standard 2011 Achievement Award for her work at Amaus.

The evening was a triumph of song and solidarity with the needy. Audience members were delighted by the performances, silent auction and intermission treats.

Most of the performers were parishioners. I.C. Cantor Sherrie Hale and several members of her family—her husband Peter, sister Janet LaFrance and nieces Dailyn and Emlyn Clark—were among the artists, along with parishioners Dana DiGennarro, Theresa Razmjou, Danielle Relyea, Alex Ottaviano, Pauline Ottaviano, Joseph Cambareri and Kevin Callery. About 18 other local artists also performed.

To date, the concert series has raised \$4,500 for the clinic. Visit our website, www.ic-parish.com/ICGoodNews.htm, to see more photos from the Amaus benefit concert.

Ministry to Give Fresh Produce to Hungry

By Kelly Ann Kelly

The Samaritan Center of Syracuse provides hundreds of meals every day to some of the city's neediest men, women and children. While they strive to provide the most nutritious meals possible, fresh produce is often lacking. Parishioner Peggy Menter saw this need and decided to do something about it. The result is the Samaritan Center Produce Ministry.

The staff of the Samaritan Center is grateful for Peggy's interest. "Fresh produce is not as readily available for people living in poverty," said Samaritan Center Resource and Referral Specialist Julie Gilbert. "It's more common that canned food and foods like white bread are donated." Peggy is now exploring the best way to obtain and deliver the produce.

Menter is being assisted by Molly Callery, but they would like help from other interested parishioners. "The ministry has room to grow and hopefully with the kindness and caring of this great parish, it will," Peggy said.

In late 2010, Peggy found herself confronted with several life-changing events. Her father passed away, her oldest daughter moved into her own apartment and her second daughter went away to college. "I was reflecting on these changes," she said, "and decided I needed a new challenge, one that would help fulfill a need within myself and help others." As a former Samaritan Center Baker, Menter was aware of the agency's great need and saw an opportunity.

Watch the church bulletin for the official launch of the Samaritan Center Produce Ministry this summer. Anyone interested in helping is asked to contact Peggy at Mmentersb@aol.com or Molly at mzimme01@law.syr.edu.

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I.C. School News



(Photo courtesy of Caroline Agor-Calimlim)

The 3rd grade classes of Doreen Kabot and Kim Fuller made books come to life with a Wax Museum. Each student researched and portrayed a famous person who was an important role model. Relatives and students in other grades were invited to visit the wax museum. For a 25 cent donation, the figures would come to life and talk about their lives.



(Photo courtesy of Andrew Leary)

The Kindergarten classes of Doreen Conrad and Jordan Boskovski presented their annual play entitled, "Books we Love." Each student played a part in one of four Kindergarten Books. This is a character from the book "Whose Garden Is It?" by Mary Ann Hoberman.

Former I.C. School Principal Honored

By Kathy Lowenberg

At the 26th annual House of Providence dinner on May 18, Catholic Charities bestowed the Bishop's Medallion upon Sister Elizabeth John Timson. The medallion honors individuals who, through their vocation and voluntary pursuits, have lived as models of service to others. This is certainly what she meant to us!

Sister Elizabeth John served as principal of I.C. School for 12 years, 1989-2001. On her watch, our parish saw the successful completion of our school expansion.

She was ever present at our school and parish functions helping, supporting and being a friend to all. We are fortunate that she remains a familiar figure at many of our parish occasions today. Former I.C. faculty, parents, students and parishioners lovingly refer to her as "Sister E.J."

The I.C. School children said it best when they dedicated the 2001 school yearbook to her: "We will always remember you as a wonderful principal who was a great role model—you set a good example for us—you taught us to be kind to one another—you taught us, through fairness and love, to keep rules and you kept us safe."

Congratulations Sister E.J. You are one in a million!



(Photo courtesy of Caroline Agor-Calimlim)

Former I.C. School principal Sister E.J. was among the well-wishers at Monsignor McCloskey's 90th birthday party in April.

A Golden Moment

By Kay Egiton

It was an enchanted evening when this little stranger sat beside me at Easter Vigil Mass. I was sitting at the far end of my pew; next to me came a young boy followed by his mom, sister and dad. I smiled and softly said, "Hi." He sort of smiled back and out of the corner of my eye I noticed he kept looking at me as if he was waiting for me to do something. He was really watching me! I was tempted to ask if I could help him with something but, too late. Mass had started. He was still looking at me. Soon it was time for the Gospel to be read.

The Priest announced, "The Gospel according to Matthew." I raised my hand to my forehead and said, "Glory to you, Lord." At this moment I realized why he was watching me so closely. He had a good idea of what to do, he just wasn't quite sure that he got it! I saw out of the corner of my eye he was imitating me. I slowly dropped my hand from my forehead to my lips and he followed with his little hand making his cross, and then together with our thumbs we each made the Sign of the Cross over our hearts. When we completed our blessing to God I bent over and whispered to him, "You did that perfectly." He gave a huge, deep sigh and gave me a smile that said, "Thank you!" One young man will be sitting up a little taller and more confident in his pew with his peers! My friend turned to his mom with a smile of success. She was so proud of him. I never found out what his name was or what grade he might be in.

His Priest and his teacher will be pleased. This young boy gave me a golden memory to have in my not-always-golden years!

Folk Group Director Steps Down

By Kelly Ann Kelly

When Cathy Wenthen joined the I.C. Folk Group in high school, she probably didn't anticipate that she'd serve as its leader for more than 20 years. As of the end of June, Cathy is resigning that position but not resigning from the Folk Group. When the ensemble returns in September from its summer hiatus, it will be under the leadership of I.C. Choir Director Allison Krause.

Time pressure, not loss of interest in performing at Mass, is behind Wenthen's decision. "I started a new job at Upstate Medical University almost two years ago that demands a little more of my time. I promised myself I'd try juggling everything for a couple of years but it's just too much to do, and do well," Cathy said.

Cathy's commitment to the Folk Group and great faith have been hallmarks of her tenure as director. "For Cathy, this has been more than a position—it has been a real ministry," Father Ryan observed. "Her dedication, collaboration and prayerful spirit have helped to uplift our prayer and our hearts at the celebration of the Eucharist."



(Photo courtesy of Kelly Ann Kelly)

The I.C. Folk Group. Front row: Sue Nicholson Bingham, Kim Turo, Alexandra Smith, Cathy Wenthen. Middle row: Jim Resig, Harriet Doss, Joanne Dannenhoffer, Kaitlyn Hill, Mike Farnsworth, Jim McGrath. Back row: Sean Steele, Kevin Callery, Nick DeAmicis, Christopher Hotaling, Danny Kilbride, Ed Loftus. Missing from photo: Bill Burns, John Cadley, Anna Grace Geddes and Mike Karle.

The members of the Folk Group have great admiration and affection for Cathy. Long-time vocalist Jim Resig said, "I've known Cathy since the early 1980's, when she was a member of the CYO and was amazed by her musical talent then, and it's only gotten better over the last 30 years of knowing her." Harriet Doss appreciates that "Cathy finds meaningful songs to complement the readings while dealing with all ages and talent levels." Kim Turo notes, "The caring and patience, the concern, consideration and love she shows to each member is clearly discernable to us."

Cathy is a graduate of F-M High School and earned a BFA from Syracuse University. She is a Senior Web Designer at Upstate. Cathy performs with her boyfriend in area venues under the billing "John Cadley and Cathy Wenthen, acoustic duo." Their appearance schedule is available on their website, www.cadleyandwenthen.com, and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/johnandcathy.acousticduo.

Workshop on New Roman Missal Held

By Mary Ann Jefferies and Kelly Ann Kelly

"Dominus vobiscum," intoned the priest in a barely audible voice, his back to the people, as incense floated around the altar. They responded, "Et cum Spiritu tuo." Many at Mass knew from Latin class that this exchange meant, "The Lord be with you," "And with your Spirit." That was the '50s and early '60s, before Vatican II, the watershed event of the 20th century for the Roman Catholic Church.

This coming Advent, priests will say, "The Lord be with you," and the assembly will respond, "And with your Spirit." This is just one example of the changes in the wording of the Mass, called the Roman Missal, that will go into effect on November 27. There are others, and it will take a while to learn these new phrases. The biblical ties will be more obvious, the poetry more harmonious and the wording more accurate.

On May 31, Father Joseph Scardella, diocesan Director of Ministerial Formation and Liturgy, presented a workshop at I.C. on the new Roman Missal for those in ministry and other interested parishioners. Over 450 people from the Syracuse area, including 79 I.C. parishioners, attended. Hundreds more have participated in regional workshops offered in Rome, Oswego and Vestal in the past few months.

The workshop began with Bishop Robert J. Cunningham welcoming participants. The bishop said he's received letters and phone calls from people concerned about the changes. He acknowledged that change is difficult but called this transition "a teachable moment for all of us."

Father Scardella gave attendees an overview of the many reasons for the new missal. The goal is to ensure our Liturgy is a precise translation of the Latin, rooted in Scriptural tradition, accurately reflecting important theological points. Precision in liturgical language is important, he said, because what we say reflects what we believe.

Breakout sessions were held to address the specific needs of priests, deacons, Catholic school teachers, musicians, chanters, catechists and liturgical ministers.

Recently, Father Scardella was interviewed for this article. In Father's experience, the changes are being well-received by priests and the laity but, naturally, people have questions. "I think the most common question is, why. 'Why do we need a new translation, a new Liturgy?'" Father said, "Liturgy, by its nature, changes. It has changed throughout the ages from a family meal in Palestine to a universal Liturgy. Some of the prior translations were

not as precise as they could have been so what is it we're really praying?"

Father pointed out that the new Missal will more clearly show how our beliefs have implications outside of Mass. "What we pray is supposed to lead us to live our lives a certain way," Father Scardella explained. "For example, in the Creed now it says, 'by the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary and became man.' This could be interpreted as meaning he became human at birth. The new translation, 'by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man,' means he was human from the moment of conception. Isn't that what we profess in our respect life issues? Theologically, that's a big issue—human since conception."

Responding to questions about the timing of the changes, Father Scardella said, "It's important to understand what Benedict did is implement what's been in the works for 10 years. In 2000, John Paul II wrote a document called 'Liturgiam Authenticam' talking about the importance of translating Liturgy authentically. [The new translation] has been written and rewritten. It's coming now because it's been in the works for 10 years."

Some of the changes may be perceived by Americans as using less inclusive language than the previous translation, Father noted, but this was not the intent. For example, in the Words of Institution, instead of saying "[my blood] will be shed for you and for all," priests will say, "for you and for many." This wording more accurately reflects Jesus' words at the Last Supper as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew and had a particular meaning to the Disciples. "Early Jewish listeners would have expected Jesus to save the Jewish nation," Father Scardella said, "but when He said 'many' it was inclusive of Jews and Gentiles. For Jesus to say that was radically different."

There will be many more opportunities for I.C. parishioners to become acquainted with the new Roman Missal. The parish will hold information sessions in the fall. Watch the bulletin for details. Laminated cards with the new responses will be in pews when the changes take effect. Changing the familiar words of our Mass may be uncomfortable at first, but by requiring us to pay more attention to our participation in Liturgy it offers us a wonderful opportunity to learn more about our faith and strengthen our relationships with God.

First Communion Held

By Lisa Pilewski

The Faith Formation program has finished its weekly classes for the year. It has been a wonderful faith journey for the children and volunteer instructors. The first order of business is a BIG thank you to all of our fantastic volunteers. Your generosity of time and faith has made a huge difference in the lives of the children in our parish.

Ninety students received First Eucharist on May 7. It was great to see everyone wearing their beautiful First Eucharist finery during May. These students also enjoyed a great retreat experience on Jesus Day on April 30. The children planted a tree along the road leading to Foxcroft Lane. It is nice to see all of the trees planted along this path by former First Eucharist classes. Again, our wonderful parish volunteers make these types of events possible for the children—thank you!

During our annual Lenten Rice Bowl campaign, the children raised \$556.15. This money is sent to Catholic Relief Services and will aid their important work.

Be on the lookout for news about our summer Vacation Bible School program. This year's theme is Pandamania, where God is wild about you! Sessions will be held daily from 9 a.m. to noon during the week of August 1. It is sure to be a summer hit!

Summer blessings to everyone from the I.C. Faith Formation Program!



(Photo courtesy of Robert J. McMahon)

Ninety boys and girls received their First Holy Communion on May 7.



(Photo courtesy of Kelly Colangelo)

The Edge meeting in May included a marshmallow roast in the church parking lot.

The Edge Invites Young Teens

By Kelly Colangelo

For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe! Plans to give you a future full of hope. Jeremiah 29:11

Christ has given meaning to our lives and we would like to share with you the joy that we have gained through Him. The Edge serves as a light to the youth of our parish by providing an environment where young teens are encouraged and equipped to pursue an intimate relationship with God, rooted in sacred Scripture and tradition, and centered on the Eucharist.

The Edge program began last December at I.C. and is going strong! There have been crowds on Monday nights for this fun-filled junior high youth group. In addition to regular Edge nights at our parish, we offer the youth occasions to put their faith into action through a variety of service projects. This summer we have an awesome schedule planned including Vacation Bible School at St. Vincent de Paul Church, the Steubenville Youth Conference, a pilgrimage to the Auriesville Shrine, Darien Lake and a Syracuse Chiefs game.

We invite all seventh and eighth graders to check out the coolest youth group in town—I.C. Edge. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Youth Minister Kelly Colangelo at kelly.colangelo@ic-parish.com or 637-2375.

Bishop Confirms 92 I.C. Teens

By Lisa Matto

On May 12, the sacrament of Confirmation was celebrated at I.C. by the Most Reverend Robert J. Cunningham. It truly was a joyous occasion for all in attendance. Ninety-two youths expressed their sincere desire to receive this sacrament and become adults in the Catholic Church. Bishop Cunningham noted how well prepared the Confirmandi were. Below are excerpts from the addresses delivered by Billy Burns and Alexandra Trop to their class during the ceremony.

Billy Burns: "For two years, we have learned about God and his son Jesus, and their unwavering love for us. God wants us to be happy and enjoy life, but keep in mind that the best is yet to come, referring to heaven."

Alexandra Trop: "Confirmation celebrates the decision that we have all made to continue the journey of faith. It represents one stage in a lifelong journey. It is a beginning, not an end."



(Photo courtesy of John Farnach)

Bishop Robert J. Cunningham anoints one of the 2011 I.C. Confirmation candidates while her sponsor (at left) and Youth Minister Lisa Matto (at right) look on.

RCIA Candidates Receive Sacraments

By Mark Ward

Through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), adults and children who have reached catechetical age are fully initiated into the Catholic faith. Six enthusiastic adults—Emily Bergamo, Kathy Brown, Kevin Brown, Kate Foster, Jacquie Gilliland and Rob Hall—joined in the full communion of the Catholic Church at I.C. this year. Since they were all baptized Christians, from a variety of Protestant denominations, they received the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Kathy and Kevin Brown's daughter Allison professed her Catholic faith along with her parents and received the sacrament of Eucharist for the first time. She will be Confirmed with her peers in high school.

RCIA has four phases: Inquiry, Catechumenate, Purification and Enlightenment, and Mystagogia. In the Inquiry phase, individuals curious about the Catholic faith study topics such as Catholic history, the Bible, the sacraments and the Mass. It affords interested individuals the opportunity to explore what it means to be Catholic.

Beginning in the Catechumenate phase and continuing in the Purification and Enlightenment phase, we delve into the Catholic faith in greater detail and reflect on the meaning of the Sunday Scripture readings. We expand our journey into Catholic dogma and doctrine, the Catechism, prayer, the saints and so much more.

During the Enlightenment/Purification phase, during the Lenten season, the candidates continue their studies but also reflect on what they have been learning. As Father Ryan says, this is the time learning transitions from the head to the heart, when candidates internalize what they have been told, read and experienced and make it their own.

During this process we celebrate three rites: the Rite of Acceptance, the Rite of Sending and the Rite of Election. The Rite of Acceptance signifies the candidates' desire to be accepted into the Catholic community of believers. The parish welcomes them, acknowledges their journey and offers support. The candidates learn that a significant aspect of our Catholic faith is community. This theme is continued in the Rite of Sending. The parish sends forth the candidates to the larger Catholic community of our Diocese, signaling that we are a part of a much larger community—the universal



(Photo courtesy of Mark Ward)

The RCIA class. From left, Emily Bergamo, Jacquie Gilliland, Kate Foster, Kathy Brown, Allison Brown, Kevin Brown and Rob Hall.

Church. In the Rite of Election, the Bishop welcomes them into the Catholic community of the Elect.

Finally, the period of Mystagogia epitomizes the concept that we grow in our faith and it is a never-ending journey of learning. It is a time to reflect on the mysteries of faith that we celebrated at Easter. Officially this period culminates at Pentecost but we emphasize that in fact we are called to walk in faith with Jesus for the rest of our lives. Please pray for this year's RCIA class and wish them well.

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LifeLines Prayerfully Promoting Life

By Suzanne Davidson

The Culture of Life Committee's first Rosary for Life of 2011 took place on May 18 between the rain drops and under a cloudy sky. We were grateful to squeeze it in before more rain arrived. A small group of parishioners gathered at the grotto to recite the rosary to promote the culture of Life. The Rosary for Life at the grotto is a simple but blessed time to gather with friends who desire to pray to promote a consistent ethic of life. The evening bears witness to the power of community and the rosary.

All are invited to attend. It is a great environment for children to experience the rosary and see other children praying. Rosary beads and booklets are provided for anyone who wants to learn the rosary. Ice cream is enjoyed by all after the rosary. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets and join us anytime!

Please join us at 7 p.m. on:

Thursday, July 14

Tuesday, August 16

Tuesday, September 13

At Easter, Pope Benedict XVI reminded us that it is Christ himself who is the Advocate pleading our cause: "Christ is the victim who dies no more, the Lamb, once slain, who lives forever." What a powerful reminder; Christ pleads our cause. It is easy to become discouraged by all that threatens the culture of life—social, political, legislative, economic and scientific. And yet we are told repeatedly in the Bible not to be afraid. Combating the threats to life requires committed hearts, minds and voices but above all, it requires prayer. Through consistent and devoted prayer we will succeed in promoting the culture of life. With Jesus, through Mary, may our hearts be opened and our hands strengthened as we build together the Culture of Life.

Please contact Suzanne Davidson at sdavid2@twcnv.rr.com or 637-2361 if you have any questions.

Life is Beautiful. Respect it. Protect it.

Catholic Men's Conference Held

By Joseph Stein, Ph.D.

On April 2, Father Joseph O'Connor welcomed 850 men to the 2011 Catholic Men's Conference, IGNITE. Father Joe challenged us to ignite our love for Christ and to let this "fire" burn out of control!

The conference began with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Robert J. Cunningham, and concelebrated by 13 other priests. In his homily, the bishop urged us to allow God's merciful love to empower and inflame our lives.

Following Mass, Monsignor Jim Lisante, an author, radio host and pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Massapequa, N.Y., gave an engaging talk. He emphasized the importance in our family lives of feeding ourselves spiritually and verbalization. Using humorous stories from his years of marriage preparation counseling, Monsignor Lisante illustrated how essential it is to integrate religion into our lives.

During a delicious lunch catered by Barbagallo's Restaurant, men from Holy Family Church in Syracuse and St. John's Church in Liverpool described their Men's Fellowship groups. After lunch, Gus Lloyd, a Catholic evangelist and radio show host, gave an emotionally powerful account of his return to the Catholic Church and experiencing the Bible come to life. He reminded us that "what we do" is not "who we are." Our job is to get to heaven and help others to get there. Most of us, he believes, are undercatechized for this task, and so we must "learn why we believe what we believe!"

Darrell Miller, director of Major League Baseball's Urban Youth Academy and a board member of Catholic Athletes for Christ, shared his conversion story and how difficult it was for him initially to confess his sins in the sacrament of Reconciliation. He knows that all men struggle; we all have our "thorns in the flesh" that trip us up. Miller urged us to proclaim our "thorns" in Confession in order to get rid of them. He challenged us to make a Lenten obligation to change our lives and become real Catholic men!

The conference concluded with a very spiritual Adoration Hour, with a homily by Deacon Bill Fitzpatrick and a procession of the Real Presence led by Deacon Joseph Celenano. We were all urged to mark our calendars for Saturday, March 31, 2012 for next year's IGNITE Conference.

Join the Altar Society

By Marion Swanson

Each year in January, you find an envelope among the weekly offering envelopes for "Altar Society Dues" of \$5. There are also envelopes marked "Altar Society" for flowers at Christmas and Easter collections. The dues are used to purchase items pertaining to the altar, altar servers and priests. This past year, new servers' robes, a gold ciborium and chalice were purchased (The Church Mice also contributed to these purchases). The flower envelopes help with the cost of decorating the church for these special occasions.

Active members of the Altar Society make sure the altar linens and other linens used at Mass are washed and ironed every week. Another group meets some time between Monday and Friday to clean the altar and areas around the Sanctuary and change the Holy Water at the entrances when needed. The work takes about an hour at the most.

A good way to put your faith into action is to volunteer to help in one of these activities. It only takes an hour or so every few weeks. If you are interested, please call Alyce McNamara at 445-0500. She will be looking forward to hearing from you!



(Photo courtesy of Kelly Ann Kelly)

As a member of the Altar Society, Rose Ann Caporuscio helps keep our church neat and clean.

Social Justice Committee: Living the Gospel

By Darryl Geddes

The I.C. Social Justice Committee celebrates its 25th year of service in 2012. Its focus is on putting the Gospel message of helping others into action. "It's about providing our time, treasure and talent in a way that benefits others," said Barbara Sullivan, who chairs the committee.

Sullivan said the committee's success lies not solely in the dedication of its 20 members but also in the steadfast support it receives from the I.C. community. "The committee can help coordinate our parish's social justice outreach, but making it all possible are the parishioners of Immaculate Conception who give so much each and every time we ask," Sullivan said. "As a parish community, we truly are living the Gospel."

Last year, the group began a relationship with the Oxford Street Inn, a shelter for homeless men in Syracuse. Committee members make and serve hot meals there each month. They collected sneakers and blankets at church for the residents last fall and winter.

"More than just the hot meals and warm blankets, I.C.'s support shows us that these men at the Oxford Inn are not forgotten," said the Inn's Program Manager Michael Sullivan. "Supporting the Oxford Inn and our residents is a great way to put Christian values to work."

Each year, parishioners respond overwhelmingly to the committee's Giving Trees, which decorate the church during the Christmas season. On each branch hangs a paper angel describing an item from a needy person's Christmas wish list. With the help of local agencies, the committee delivers the hundreds of gifts donated by parish families.

The Social Justice Committee began in 1987 to serve the needs of the poor, the homeless, and ethnic and racial minorities. Through the years it has taken on projects of all sizes. The committee has played a leading role in helping refugee families transition to life in Syracuse. The group has helped build homes for Habitat for Humanity, renovated and decorated a room at a local women's shelter and held activities to benefit the Food Pantry, Vera House, the Brady Faith Center and countless other charities. Fair Trade Coffee Sundays, which raise awareness of the need for economic justice for coffee growers in Central American, are examples of the committee's educational outreach.

"Through the years, the Social Justice Committee has provided inspirational leadership in its mission to help others," said Father Tom Ryan. "We are grateful for all its members, past and present, and look forward to another 25 years of service to those in need."

Welcome Sister Pat to I.C. Convent

By Maryann Carrigan



(Photo courtesy of Sister Patricia Fogle)

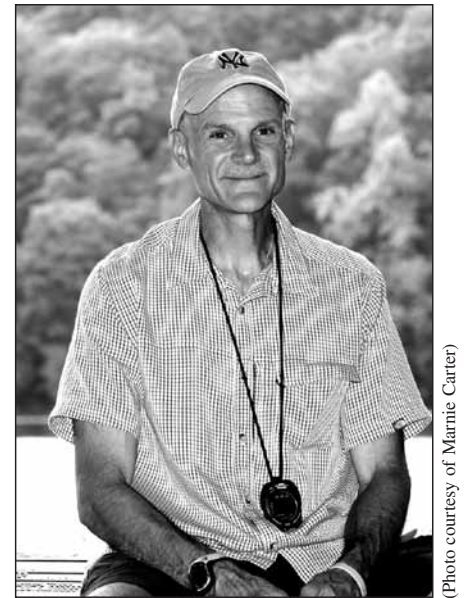
Sister Patricia Fogle, O.S.F., moved into the I.C. Convent in September.

Sister Pat, with Sister Kathleen Osbelt, is organizing a new corporation called Partners in Franciscan Ministries. This corporation will bring the various ministries of the Order—such as hospitals (five, including our St. Joseph's Hospital), schools, and daycare centers—together into one organization, positioned for the future. Sister Pat, a former hospital CEO in Pittsburgh, brings a strong background in education and health care administration to this important task.

Coach Teaches Success in Track and for Life

By Patricia Marzola

When speaking with parishioner and F-M track coach Bill Aris, one statement of his rings especially true throughout all that he shares: he truly does love what he is doing. What began 19 years ago for Coach Aris as a friend helping a friend, has become his personal passion and what many F-M High School track coach Bill Aris have described as a dynasty at the Fayetteville-Manlius School District.



(Photo courtesy of Marnie Carter)

Aris, who dabbled in various sports while growing up, observed with track how things could be done right. While other runners focused on improving their times, Aris was formulating a plan of his own. His plan had two requirements, attitude and work ethic. His plan's foundation was including "normal, everyday kids who work hard to do exceptional things."

Aris emphasizes that his coaching includes life lessons for the athletes' futures. He stresses a four-part hierarchy that seems to increase selflessness and, as a bonus, increase individual performances. His hierarchy includes (in this order) God, family, school and running. Aris understands that not every student may have God in his or her own hierarchy, so those students would begin with family instead. The hierarchy is Aris' way of guiding the athletes to prioritize.

Aris, a Post-Standard 2011 Achievement Award recipient, has been the F-M track coach since 2004 and has seen the girls' team win five consecutive state and national titles and the boys' team claim one national and four state championships. The Achievement Award transcends winning or losing for Aris. He is honored to be able to influence lives and says he is especially proud when "kids come back and share the impact the program has had on their lives. It is worth everything." On a personal level, he credits his wife Chris as "the silent force behind my coaching."

Aris says he has "no interest in the continuance of legacy." He does not let his new student athletes get caught up in the past. He starts anew each year with his multi-faceted process that "taps into how student athletes live their lives and finding out what makes them tick." His process is 80 percent mind and heart and 20 percent running. His initial goal with new runners is to get from A to Y. Once they get to Y, then they can go ahead to Z. The end is not his ultimate goal; it is the process that he emphasizes.

Beginning on June 27 and running through the summer, Aris will supervise a Summer Running Program to help students build fitness, in particular for cross country. The clinic is held at Green Lakes Park, where students run on the park's trails, and at the Fayetteville-Manlius High School weight room where students work on fitness. Aris believes if one aspires to excellence, success will often follow. Anyone with questions about the clinic, may contact Coach Aris at 637-8160 or 692-1919 or via e-mail at WAris@fmschools.org. Contrary to what some may think, the dynasty reputation does not ensure a complete team. You may be just the runner Coach Aris is looking for.

The Sisters of St. Francis experienced a series of mergers among their congregations over the last 10 years. Congregations across New York (Buffalo, Williamsville, Syracuse and Hastings-on-Hudson) and in Millville, Pa united to become the Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities, with over 400 Sisters. Worldwide, over 500 Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities minister in three countries and 15 states or American territories in 32 dioceses. Partners in Franciscan Ministries is their plan for the future. It is designed to insure that the legacy of the Sisters of St. Francis, their 150 years of service, will carry on through the ministries of the Sisters with their lay brothers and sisters.

So, if you see Sister Pat at church, please offer her a warm welcome to the Immaculate Conception community and best wishes for the success of her ministry.