



## The Low Down on Low Gluten and the Eucharist

By Fran Rossi Szpylczyn, Pastoral Associate for Administration

Eucharist comes from the Greek word *eucharistia*, meaning thankfulness or gratitude. To be able to participate in the sacred meal at the Lord's table is a gift of our faith and infused with gratitude. Yet, there are those who may have been denied participation because of an illness.

Those who suffer from celiac disease as well as other gluten allergies and sensitivities cannot consume the same Eucharistic bread that most of us take. Some of us might roll our eyes, or be inclined to say that the words low-gluten are part of a food fad – but it can be a significant health issue for people of all ages. We are called to always consider the highest aim and be charitable to all. This invites us to understand the why of low gluten and communion, and it invites all of our brothers and sisters in need of a solution to the table. Depending on the person and the specifics of their particular ailment, even trace amounts of gluten may cause severe abdominal stress and trauma. Given that hosts must have a certain amount of gluten in order to be licit, or legal, what options are available for faithful Catholics?

12 years ago, then Prefect for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Joseph Ratzinger, and the authority on such matters, addressed the issue of the use of gluten in hosts in the celebration of the Eucharist:

*Low-gluten hosts (partially gluten-free) are valid matter, provided they contain a sufficient amount of gluten to obtain the confection of bread without the addition of foreign materials and without the use of procedures that would alter the nature of bread. (From a document Circular Letter to all Presidents of the Episcopal Conferences concerning the use of low-gluten altar breads and mustum as matter for the celebration of the Eucharist, July 2003.)*



One can stroll through the aisles of local supermarkets and find a wide variety of gluten free options, many of which are eaten for reasons having nothing to do with serious illness. It is not so simple for someone seeking to receive the Body and Blood of Christ.

Here at Immaculate Conception we can offer a solution for those who seek low gluten hosts for medically based reasons. While numerous companies offer “low gluten altar breads” that are certified for use in the Catholic church, we have continued to work with the *Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration* in Clyde, Missouri to obtain appropriate hosts. The sisters have worked long and hard on this issue, relying on prayer to lead them to the best solutions – and God responded powerfully!

We did try another brand at one point, but it caused some reactions among parishioners, so we went back to the nuns' recipe. Their hosts seem to suit every person that has requested them, both here, and at my home parish of St. Edward the Confessor in Clifton Park.

When someone approaches either Faith Formation or the office seeking a low gluten

Please see Low Gluten Host, page 7

## Ministry Updates

### Music Ministry—A Reflection by Mark DiMartino

“The only thing better than singing is more singing.” – Ella Fitzgerald

As a therapist in the field of chemical dependency, I work with those who alter their moods by the use of a chemical, anything from alcohol to heroin. By the time I see a client, their lives are often consumed by seeking and taking the drug and they have lost the ability to pursue the normal everyday activities that satisfy most people. They have lost the ability to relax, deal with stress which in turn increases their level of anxiety and depression, leading to more use and isolation from friends and family. Recovery then focuses on discovering and rediscovering healthier methods of coping.

In an editorial I wrote for the *Daily Gazette*, I urged readers who advocate for the legalization of marijuana, that the mood altering they seek can be better attained by learning a new skill, assisting others in need, eating healthier, exercising, hiking in nature, being in a loving relationship and singing, especially in a group. Our choir at Immaculate Conception is an excellent example.

Singing in and of itself offers many physical and emotional health benefits. The literature is full of studies touting how singing can boost one’s immune system, create healthier lungs, reduce blood pressure, decrease stress, anxiety and depression, increase concentration, memory and even tone abdominal muscles without ever doing a single sit up!

Singing in a group is a unifying force bringing together the four voices: soprano, alto, tenor and bass until harmony is achieved in mind as well as sound. When we meet together for rehearsal, Derek, our director, warmly greets us, invites us to leave our stress and troubles of the day at the church door. He then enthusiastically leads us in several vocal and stretching exercises to prepare for the important work we are about to do. There is an energy that is generated in the group as the musical pieces we are learning take shape and form into the desired sound, but more importantly, into the spiritual message of the music.

During Mass, the congregation joins with the choir in a connection that brings us all closer to God. As one of our members, Edda wrote: singing has the ability to penetrate the emotional walls we often put up and opens our hearts to hope, healing and love.

Please see Music, Page 8

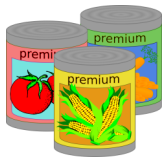
### Baker’s Dozen

The Baker’s Dozen Ministry is starting its 5<sup>th</sup> year in 2016. About 30 men and women bake for various church events. The ministry’s primary function is to provide baked goods for the Saturday evening Mass hospitality on the first Saturday of every month. In addition, in 2015, the group helped out for the Healing Masses, the Fish Fry dinners, Confirmation and Graduation Masses, the concert on December 6<sup>th</sup> and the reception for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Mary Beth sends out an email about 2 weeks before an event asking for bakers to provide 2 -3 dozen cookies or brownies. (A few bakers prefer to be called by phone, and Mary Beth will accommodate that request.) There is no obligation to bake each time, once a month, once a year, whatever the baker’s schedule and desire dictates. A lot of enthusiastic bakers like to bake for almost any event, so it is never a problem filling those plates! That’s all there is to it. If you are interested in joining the Baker’s Dozen, please send an email to [mbfrewin@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mbfrewin@nycap.rr.com) or call Mary Beth at 399-7736. All are welcome to join this ministry.



### Knights of Columbus Council 10013

The Knights of Columbus will be serving **Lenten Fish Dinners** beginning February 12 and going for 6 weeks through the Fridays in Lent. This is the 10<sup>th</sup> year of putting on the dinners; in 2007, 465 dinners were served, and in 2015, 1623 meals were served. The **Ladies Auxiliary**, the **Bakers Ministry**, and the **Youth Group** are among the ministries involved in making this fun and successful.



**40 Cans for Lent Program** started 4 years ago. It has grown to providing over 5,000 cans of food to our St Vincent DePaul Food Pantry. We ask families to donate “1 can of food per day for the 40 days” of Lent and place them in the bins at the back of the church. One mother took her three children to the store to buy the 40 cans; and when she got to the store, each of her children wanted their own cart so that family put in over 120 cans that year. This is a great chance to put into action the Corporal Works of Mercy “To Feed the Hungry.”

Contact: Gerard Havasy, Council Trustee and Membership Chairman; 406-5675; [gfhavasy@yahoo.com](mailto:gfhavasy@yahoo.com)

### A Thank You from the St. Vincent DePaul Society

The Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets and Christmas gifts distribution to the less fortunate families of our community was a great success. Because of the generosity of the parish, the Society was able to help 80 families at Thanksgiving and 110 at Christmas. It would not have been possible without the help of many parish volunteers, especially the youth groups of our cluster parishes.

The St. Vincent DePaul Society actively helps those in need with food and temporary financial assistance throughout the year. Your continued generosity is needed to allow the Society to continue its work in this “Year of Mercy” as proclaimed by Pope Francis.

Contact: Joe Aglio: [mlouaglio@aol.com](mailto:mlouaglio@aol.com); 399-5395

## Ministry Updates-cont.

### Friends of Musoma



A new project started by Friends of Musoma was described by Father Alexander Choka at a Friends of Musoma presentation attended by about 30 persons on November 13th in the Flicker Room. The project consists of building a brick security wall around the facilities that comprise St. Justin's Center for the Care of Disabled Children located in Musoma, Tanzania. This center cares for about 140 children with physical, intellectual, and/or hearing disabilities. The children are housed, fed, and sent to government schools where they can receive special education services not provided in public schools.

Father has a particularly tender spot for these children, who, he explained, would be totally helpless without the support of St. Justin's. Over the past year, several children wandered away from St. Justin's, and in a few cases, it took weeks to locate the children and return them safely. The only way to get the word out about a missing child is by making an announcement at Sunday Mass at the local church. Consequently, it can take as long as a week in some cases to just alert people in the surrounding area to be on the lookout. The safety of a wandering child is further complicated by the fact that the shores of Lake Victoria are only a few yards away from the perimeter of St. Justin's. Additionally, in Tanzania there is no concept of property rights, so it is not unusual for strangers like fishermen coming from Lake Victoria to wander across the land where the children of St. Justin's live and play. Father Choka jokingly recounted his rather dampening realization of this cultural difference when he was an assistant pastor at

Immaculate Conception. He was walking home from Price Chopper when it started to pour, but, alas, he knew that he would not be able to duck into the nearest home to wait for the rain to pass, as he would have been able to do back in Tanzania.

These security concerns for the children resulted in Father's recommendation that a brick wall be built around St. Justin's. Using \$6,000 of funds provided by Friends of Musoma, half of the wall and a gate in the wall have already been built. Father Choka's description of the construction process was quite eye-opening. Just to build half the wall, which is 9 feet tall and 475 feet long, required the making of 4,500 bricks using 100 bags of cement. The bricks were handmade by volunteers, including children at the center who helped during the times when they were not attending school. Once the bricks were made, they had to be watered twice a day, once in the morning and once in the late evening, for seven days, in order for them to set properly. The water used for this purpose was carried by hand to the site, and, again, this work was performed by volunteers. It took about three weeks for the gentleman hired to build the wall to complete the first half of the project, which included digging a foundation for the brick wall to make it even more sturdy.



Friends of Musoma is now working to raise an additional \$6,000 to complete the wall. Please consider making a donation. Checks can be made payable to Friends of Musoma Society at P.O. Box 74, Burnt Hills, NY 12027. Any dollar amount would be appreciated. Several pictures of the project can be viewed on our website at <https://sites.google.com/site/friendsofmusoma/>

### *Keep Schenectady Warm: a Ministry with a Message by Donna Lagasse*

Even though I was active in our parish, I felt impelled by the Spirit to do more for my needy brothers and sisters. At prayer, I was lifting up my neighbors who were suffering from the cold, when an inspiration struck; I could craft and provide them with hats, mittens, and scarves, and if I could encourage others to join in the crafting, together we could do much more good. Thus, Keep Schenectady Warm came to be.

Since my profession in the Secular Franciscan Order, I have followed the rules of the Order, first written by St. Francis. Rule # 13 directs Secular Franciscans to "place themselves on an equal basis with all people, especially with the lowly for whom they shall strive to create conditions of life worthy of people redeemed by Christ." Thus, for me, Keep Schenectady Warm is not only a parish ministry, but a Secular Franciscan work of charity. Furthermore, in addition to the practical benefit to the recipient, the crafter received a spiritual gift beyond measure.

To date, Keep Schenectady Warm has donated over 1200 garments locally, all delivered free of charge to those in need by the City Mission and Salvation Army. At this point, the need for garments is growing, and consequently, the need for crafters is also growing. The requirements of this ministry are simple. There is no travel—there are no meetings. The activity takes place in the crafter's home, on the crafter's schedule. A warm garment can be knit, crocheted or sewn, for any age. After sizing, the garments are packaged and labeled with a slip that reads: *A gift made for YOU from KEEP SCHENECTADY WARM, your neighbors who follow Christ's example to love, "and this commandment we have from God, that he who loveth God, love also his brother."* (1 John 4:21)

Contact Donna: 399-0547; [dlagasse@nycap.rr.com](mailto:dlagasse@nycap.rr.com)



## Ministry Updates-cont.

### Immaculate Conception Welcomes 7 to RCIA

By Teri Gay -- Co-Chair, RCIA; Photographs by Julie Ashcroft

If you notice that Fr. Jerry Gingras has a little extra skip in his step as we ring in this new year, it may just have something to do the fact that Immaculate Conception is about to welcome seven – yes, SEVEN! – new Catholics into our parish in this upcoming Lenten season.

Two “Catechumens” and five “Candidates” have been participating in The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) process since last fall. They were introduced to the parish on November 1 during The Rite of Acceptance. Here in this issue of *The Parish Pipeline*, you will become further acquainted with these faith-filled and outstanding people as they continue their journey to Catholicism, which will culminate at Easter.

Cindy Carter and April Nedwell, our Catechumens, have been received into the order of the catechumenate, and are preparing for their initiation into the Christian faith by Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.



**Cindy Carter** is a busy mother of two young children, son Benjamin (4 ½) and daughter Annalee (2). She and her husband Ben, a lifelong Catholic, have been attending Immaculate Conception with their family for a little over a year. Cindy enjoys knitting, crocheting, camping, and hiking. She has long been interested in learning more about Catholicism with the intent to join the

faith. She made the decision to pursue RCIA last year out of this desire, as well as to create a new beginning for her and her family, who reside in Ballston Lake, to worship together as Catholics.

**April Nedwell** and her husband Dan, who was raised Catholic, live in Galway and have been attending our church since last September. She is a reading teacher at Oliver Winch Middle School in South Glens Falls and enjoys reading, kayaking, baking, and hiking. April was inspired to participate in RCIA in order to learn about Catholicism and commit to Baptism, and to the path of acceptance into full Communion so that she and Dan can raise their future children in the Catholic faith.



Our five Candidates are Michael Hinkle, Richard Miller, Brian Nissley, Jim Vincent, and David Wetzel. All previously baptized in other faiths, they now wish to complete their journey into full Communion with the Catholic Church through the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

**Michael Hinkle** lives in Glenville with his wife Alissa and their four children, Abigail, Michael, Annabelle, and Mason. They’ve been attending Immaculate Conception for about nine months. Mike is a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service, and he enjoys sports and

watching movies. A former Methodist, he became drawn to becoming a Catholic when his and Alissa’s marriage was blessed by the Church. He is enjoying RCIA, he says, as it is helping him to learn about and grow in the Catholic faith, and to experience this faith journey with the new friends he has found in this process.



**Richard Miller** and his wife Debi, a “cradle Catholic,” live in Glenville and have been attending Immaculate Conception for many years. They are grandparents to three – children of their son, Todd, and daughter-in-law, Crystal. Rich had a



thirty-one year career as a lineman for Niagara Mohawk and National Grid. In his retirement, he enjoys “golf, lots of golf,” fishing trips to Texas with his brother every spring, and snow-birding to Port Charlotte, Florida with his wife from November to April every winter.

Raised a Presbyterian when he was growing up in Troy, Rich has over many years been curious about joining the Catholic faith. He sees RCIA as a new beginning for himself, helping to make him more confident and comfortable in sharing the Mass with Debi.

**Brian Nissley** and his wife, Jan, a Catholic, live in Glenville and have been parishioners at Immaculate Conception for four years. Brian is a retired Engineering Manager who now spends his days actively engaged in home maintenance and improvement projects. He grew up in Michigan, where his father still lives, and was raised in the Lutheran faith. Brian says he sought out participation in RCIA to develop a deeper understanding of the Catholic religion and to come into full Communion with the Church.



**Jim Vincent** and his wife, Mary Ann, a Catholic, live in Charlton. They have attended our church for about three years and greatly enjoy the friendly people they’ve met here. Jim is a retired Controller/Environmental Chief Technician for Albany Steam Station (power plant). He likes to spend his days working outdoors, cutting wood, and playing golf. A former Presbyterian, Jim was drawn to RCIA in order to understand Catholicism in a more personal way, and says that, by relating to the wonderful parishioners at Immaculate Conception, he has learned what Catholicism really stands for and what it is truly about.



### RCIA—continued from page 4



**David Wetzel** grew up in Niskayuna and now resides in Glenville with his wife, Kelly, and their three children, Matthew, Mackenzie, and Meghan. He is the Principal of Lisha Kill Middle School in South Colonie, and his hobbies include working in his backyard and reading. Baptized and

confirmed in the Lutheran faith, Dave became interested in joining the Catholic faith and has been attending Immaculate Conception for about nine months. He was inspired to pursue RCIA after being warmly welcomed and made to feel “at home” here in our church. Dave remarks that he is enjoying the weekly RCIA sessions, the fellowship with the other participants, and is growing in his faith. He is eager to receive Holy Communion and to participate fully in the life of the Church.

“We are so blessed at Immaculate Conception that the Holy Spirit has sent these seven terrific people our way,” Fr. Jerry remarked. “It is a sure sign – along with the recent addition of many new families to our parish – that we are a vibrant and growing Catholic faith community and that God is here, working amongst us.”

Please continue to make welcome our seven Catechumens and Candidates, and keep them in your thoughts and prayers as we journey together now and through the Easter season.



*RCIA Ministry Members: Kim Klementowski - Chair, Deacon Michael Melanson – Co-Chair, Michael Groves – Co-Chair, Teri Gay – Co-Chair, Julie Ashcroft, Karen Bond, Joseph Bucci, Sean Caron, Gerry Havasy, Jerry Havasy, Carol Heckman, Paul Heckman, Hank Maddalone, Joyce Maddalone, and Maria Morris-Groves.*

*For further information about RCIA, please contact the Parish Office, 399 – 9168.*

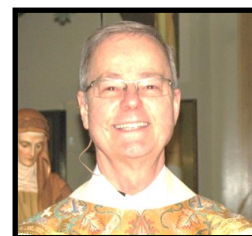
### What do you like about this parish? Photos & Interviews by Joanne Schabinger & Mary Ann Vincent



Kim K.: “The community, and Father Jerry’s homilies always speak to me.”



Holly & Phil S: “We feel at home. The religious ed program is strong and our children are very involved. There is a sense of reverence here.”



Fr. Jerry: “I often hear people comment about the warm welcome they receive and the community feeling. The parish family members love their church, are proud of their community, and they are very generous with their time, talent and treasure.”



Grace the Dog: “I am the proud daughter dog of the pastor, Fr. Jerry. I like that I get to sit in the pastor’s chair and nobody else does! I also like all the attention I get from the church family and the treats people give me. It’s a great place to live!”



Mary Ann V: “Fr. Jerry’s celebration of the Mass, in my opinion, is one of the most reverent, fervent services I have ever attended. His humble, pious manner during the Mass touches me deeply. “

**Times of Joy—Sacramental Milestones**



*Congratulations and welcome to these children who received the Sacrament of Baptism from September 27, 2015 to January 13, 2016. We pray for the grace these families need to grow in their faith.*

- Ian James, child of Adam & Ivy Schumacher
- Ludwig William, child of Ludwig & Lauren Bach
- Molly Ann, child of Eric & Kaitlin Amell
- Vincent Heinrich, child of Nicholas & Irka Redelsperger
- Collins Jacquelyn, child of Kevin & Alicia Dunbar
- Jessica Ellen, child of Gideon & Jennifer Lamb
- Madison Margaret and Kyle Michael, children of Edward & Brenda Ross (twins)
- Michael Philip, child of Margaret O'Brien
- Gabriel Robert, child of Robert & Carolyn Sauer
- Samuel Robert, child of Ali & Kelly Seyed
- Caroline Bernadette, child of Christopher & Jillian  
Laurenzo
- Tiernan Mitchell, child of Scott & Janet Draina
- Lydia Elizabeth, child of Joseph & Mary Nally
- Alessandra Estelle Daniel, child of Daniel & Jeannine Ortiz
- Nicholas Dominic, child of Nicholas & Francesca Falvo
- Luca Philomena, child of Jonathan & Erika George
- Carrigan McLean, child of Dave & Christine Blair

***This couple was married between October 11 and December 4, 2016. We wish God's blessing upon them.***

Thomas Vautrin to Sara Casagrande

**THANK YOU!**



After nearly a year of planning, fundraising, preparing and praying our pilgrimage attended the National Catholic Youth Conference in November 2015. They were joined by over 20,000 Catholic teens from all around the United States. This experience would not have been possible without the financial and spiritual support of our Parish Family and many individuals. Thank you, thank you, **THANK YOU!**

*Here are just a few thoughts from some of our teens about the trip:*

“My favorite session was “Developing Your Own Zombie Apocalypse Plan”. It talked about how our faith helps us through hard things in my everyday life. I learned that being Catholic is more than going to church. It is also being involved with other parts of my church.”  
Lauren

“My favorite session was the one with Paul Kim because it made being Catholic relatable and applicable to everyday life. The one thing I learned about being Catholic was the importance of community.”  
Thomas

“All of the sessions were amazing, it's hard to choose {my favorite}. I would have to say Wonderfully Made was my favorite session overall. Wonderfully Made was a great opportunity to learn about how you can be yourself. You don't need to worry about looks or anything like that, it's what's on the inside that matters. God loves each and everyone one of us no matter what we look like. NCYC allowed me to grow in my faith while I was with so many other teens who share the same belief as me. I learned that God loves me and I can always trust Him. He is always with me and will help me when I'm in need. The sight of seeing all of the teens together in one stadium was breathtaking. It was a sight that doesn't even have words to describe it. This was a wonderful opportunity and I hope to attend NCYC again in 2017.”  
Gabrielle

“Church is not boring – you are” was my favorite session. The speaker but things in my perspective. I grew in my faith by learning to have a real discussion with God in a way I never have before which helped me grow in my faith.”  
Sam

“For any teens who have thought about going, just go for it. Don't question that thought, God will not let you down and neither will the creators of the conference. Thank you to all who made the pilgrimage happen, it was completely worth it.” -  
Ryan

## Meet the Staff: Rachel Winters, Pastoral Care Coordinator

Miss Slater probably had no idea of the effect she was having on little Rachel who often helped her father bring wood in for their neighbor's kitchen stove and would then sit in Miss Slater's parlor and visit with her. In fact, Rachel Winters, our parish Pastoral Care Coordinator, tributes her love for the elderly to Miss Slater. And this affection makes her work here all the more meaningful for Rachel and for those she touches.

A life-long parishioner of Immaculate Conception and a graduate of Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Schools, Rachel went to college in Plattsburgh where she designed her own major, recreation and enrichment for the elderly. After graduation, she moved with her husband Frank whom she met in college, and worked as a nursing home recreation director in Idaho, Connecticut and finally at Child's Nursing Home in Albany. After her sons Luke and Colin were born, Rachel became a stay-at-home mom. She was active in school activities, becoming president of the PTA and was active in the Boy Scouts.

About eight years ago, Rachel saw an ad in the church bulletin for a pastoral care coordinator. Her strong faith and devotion to the senior community made this the perfect job for her. Except Rachel does not think of this as a job: the people she deals with are like family; she loves what she does. Rachel is in her office Monday through Thursday early in the morning when she answers e-mails, connects those in need with necessary resources, oversees

approximately twenty-five volunteers, and is the liaison between our church and nursing homes, hospitals, and assisted living facilities. She coordinates the Anointing Mass and luncheon which is held twice a year. What she really enjoys about these days is the time she spends visiting the homebound and those in facilities--talking, supporting and bringing the community of Immaculate Conception to them. She has been seeing some of these parishioners every week or every other week for the entire time she has been pastoral care coordinator.

Rachel's husband, Frank, and their sons, Luke and Colin, are also active in helping those in need. For example, the entire family cooks and delivers Thanksgiving dinners to many homebound in our community each year. Rachel teaches 2<sup>nd</sup> grade religion, which she has done for fifteen years, and teaches 8<sup>th</sup> grade religion with her husband, which they have done together for 20 years. For fun, Rachel enjoys cooking and loves to be outdoors, skiing, snow shoeing, camping, canoeing, walking her dog in the woods, and gardening.

For Rachel the best thing about her job is the knowledge that she makes a difference in the lives of others, adding that the people she visits give more joy to her than she brings to them. They are like family. Miss Slater would be pleased.



## Low Gluten Host, continued from page 1

host, they are given some unconsecrated hosts to try. They are asked to try small pieces at a time, testing to see if they can consume the entire host without issue. Once they find that they can do so, they are given their own supply and their own pyx. The low gluten breads from the sisters must be refrigerated, preferably frozen.



Another challenge is that the low gluten breads must not come in contact with the other hosts as they might be contaminated with gluten. You may see people who bring in their own pyx, placing it in the priest's paten before mass. They must then seek to find Fr. Jerry wherever he is stationed, to receive communion from him.

Over the years, I have communicated with numerous people around the diocese, and around the US. In some places there are no low gluten options. In many places there are misunderstandings – a woman from another local parish recently brought her own host to church in another city and was told that this was not allowed. Sometimes people are told they are being too fussy, or even just trendy.

Coming to communion is a gift and a privilege, open to all who are members of this Body of Christ. We are grateful that here at our parish, we can make sure that all are welcome to the table.

Interested in learning more? Please go to your computer and check the following links, and feel free to contact me in the office.

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/order-of-mass/liturgy-of-the-eucharist/ceciac-disease-and-alcohol-intolerance.cfm>

[http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc\\_con\\_cfaith\\_doc\\_20030724\\_pane-senza-glutine\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20030724_pane-senza-glutine_en.html)

<http://www.benedictinesisters.org/>

<http://www.catholicceliacs.org/>



Do you have a special ICC memory?

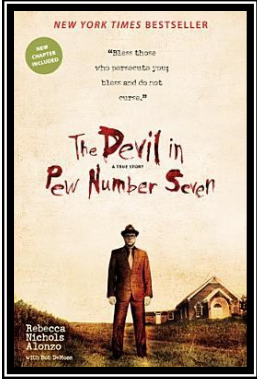
Ricchell & Bill W. & children Carrie and Andrew: The father/daughter Valentine's dance was special for Carrie. Fr. Jerry blessed items for both of the children. Last Good Friday Andrew put the crown of thorns on the Cross and Carrie placed the roses. This year Bill was one of the Magi.



How long have you been a member of ICC?

Andrea & Owen B. and children: When we first moved to the area we visited a few churches. We loved the ICC community and have been members for over 10 years. We love Fr. Jerry and the parish family.

## Book Review: *The Devil in Pew Number Seven* by Rebecca Nichols Alonzo Reviewed by Kim Klementowski



We have all read or heard about the book of Job: how Job, so faithful to God and praised by God was allowed by God to be tempted by Satan, how Satan took everything away from Job...everything he loved, owned, etc. yet Job still praised God and would not curse Him. What Job goes through is so hard for us to fathom. After all, how can all that bad happen to one person in one lifetime?

*The Devil in Pew Number Seven* is a modern day true life story which reminds me a lot of the trials and tribulations of Job. This book was written by Rebecca Nichols Alonzo in 2010 and was on the New York Times Bestseller List. As more information came to light that Rebecca did not know, a new chapter was added in 2012. This is a story of the life of a little girl who grew up in an incredibly faith filled home. Her parents were dedicated to the Lord. Her Father started many churches against much opposition. There were threats on their lives daily, home invasions and

Bombings, but still they persevered. It reminds me of people living in the Middle East who have to feel they are never safe with bombings and violence all around them--except this didn't happen in the Middle East. This happened in a sleepy little town in North Carolina, right here in the US a little over 33 years ago.

Although her early memories and her childhood were riddled with terror, Rebecca Nichols Alonzo is still able to face, talk to, and forgive the people that tormented her family and shattered her young life. In fact, she faced one of them on an episode of Dr. Phil.

This book does contain some evil and violence, but it also has an overpowering gift of forgiveness, compassion and mercy. In fact, Ms. Alonzo closes the book by saying "I have to guard what I allow to take root in my heart. If I open my heart to self-pity, anger, grudges and un-forgiveness, I give the enemy of my soul an invitation into a very expensive home—a home purchased by the blood of Christ."

This would be a great addition to a book list for the Jubilee Year of Mercy & Forgiveness. I recommend this for all those 16 years and older.

### Music, continued from page 2

Those of us who cantor the Psalm experience this connection in a most intimate manner. To sing the beauty of King David's words, inviting the congregation to participate and hearing the voices ring out throughout the church is a joy and privilege. I have heard visitors remark that they rarely hear a congregation sing in the number and with the enthusiasm that ICC does.

The refrain of Psalm 126 proclaims "God has done great things for us, filled us with laughter and music". We do laugh, with Derek, Father Jerry, Deacon Mike and each other. Friendships have been formed and we have become a supportive family, working together for a common goal. We support each other outside of church

also because of the trust that has been formed and it all began with singing.

Everyone can sing and all who do especially at ICC can experience what St. Augustine pronounced so many centuries ago: "Those who sing pray twice." Singing, like prayer, promotes joy, praise and love.

As for me, I take my inspiration from the refrain of a 19<sup>th</sup> century hymn:

"No storm can shake my inmost calm,  
While to that rock I'm clinging.  
Since Love is Lord of heaven and earth,  
How can I keep from singing?"

In this ninth issue of the *Parish Pipeline*, some of our ministries have updated their activities. Immaculate Conception is fortunate to have many more ministries which will be highlighted in coming issues. For a complete list of ministries,

- see the church website: <http://www.icglenville.com>
- contact Maryann Haskell, 399-6706, e-mail [maryann.haskell@gmail.com](mailto:maryann.haskell@gmail.com)
- fill in the information below and drop it in the collection basket. You will be contacted.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in the following ministry/ministries:

\_\_\_\_\_

April 16-17: Next issue  
of the Pipeline to be  
distributed.

April 5: Submissions  
due.