



Pilgrimage—a Tradition for All Faiths

By Fran Rossi Szpylczyn



Recently I was invited by the **Interfaith Community of Schenectady** to give a talk about my Camino Santiago, and the practice of pilgrimage as an act of faith. The location chosen for the event was a local mosque community, the **Islamic Center of the Capital District**, a place familiar to me after numerous visits.

Based on the idea that all faiths have a tradition of pilgrimage, I spoke about my experiences along "*The Way of St. James*." One thing that all faiths have in common is that pilgrimage is a way of expressing faith literally, one step at a time. It is a way of making a sacrifice, an offering, and a period of retreat from daily life, as we seek God via an intentional journey.

One of the reasons that I went on pilgrimage was because having time away, not unlike the Lenten period we just experienced, might help me to find new ways of seeing and new ways of being in Christ. Current events have long been reminding me that we seem to be putting

ourselves into smaller spheres, when the message of the Gospel is to go forth so that "all may be one." I wanted to find the courage to live more boldly in Christ, and the Camino Santiago was a unique chance to do so. Here I was, walking daily, living with, eating with, and in a large room of bunk beds, even sleeping with people from all over the world!

Many of the people I met on Camino were in some way or another Christian. I also met many people who were spiritual, but not religious. There were atheists and agnostics walking, as well as Buddhists. I met several Jewish pilgrims, and while I personally did not encounter any Muslim pilgrims, it is not unusual to meet Muslims on Camino from what I understand. People came from various ethnic, social, and cultural backgrounds, not to mention varying political points of view. The Camino Santiago provided us with a common goal and purpose. It was very clear from day one that people



Please see Pilgrimage, page 5

Ministry Updates

Glenville Council 10013 Celebrates 10 years of Lenten Fish Dinners



Ten years ago, Grand Knight James Martin proposed holding a fried fish dinner each Friday during the 6 weeks of Lent. At the time, the Council was losing interest in the Golf Tournament fundraiser and was looking for something to replace it. The main problem was the kitchen. There was no way to deep fry fish or potatoes. Jim found a solution, and that first year a small crew of about a dozen Knights and their wives breaded fish and baked desserts on Thursday, set up a dining room, prepared coleslaw, cooked fish and French fries, set out condiments, served patrons, and cleaned up afterwards on the 6 Fridays of Lent. 465 dinners over 6 weeks were served. It was the beginning of what we have today, over 1750 dinners served by a crew of about 40 members of Council 10013, the Ladies Auxiliary and the Church Youth Group.

Planning begins in January and continues up to the first week of Lent. Supplies are purchased early in the week. The temporary outdoor kitchen is set up on Thursday, and early Friday morning preparation begins. The dining hall is

set up with 144 seats. Desserts that have been baked during the week by members and their wives are plated and wrapped; potatoes are washed, wrapped and baked. Baked fish is prepared for the oven, coleslaw is made, coffee is brewed and punch is made. The burners in the outdoor kitchen are fired up and the fish and fries dropped into the hot oil.

The first guest is welcomed at 4:05 although the advertised serving time starts at 4:30. Approximately 275 – 300 guests will be served in the next two and one half hours. Even before the last dinner is served at 7:00 the cleanup crew has been hard at work washing pots and pans throughout the evening. They will be there for about 2 hours after the last guest has left.

Through the dedication and hard work of the Knights and Ladies Auxiliary the fish dinners have raised over \$60,000.00 which has been donated to local charities, food banks and parish service organizations. Besides the money raised, the fish dinners have become a place for the community to come together for an evening of fellowship.

Contact: Gerry Havasy: 406-5675; gmhavasy@yahoo.com

Ministry Updates-cont.

Stewardship Committee To Host Meeting for Ministry Leads

Have you noticed how busy the parish center is? It seems that something is going on in the parish hall almost every night. Our parish is growing! We have new ministries and our ministries are growing! The Stewardship Committee will be hosting a meeting for all Ministry leaders on May 30th @ 6:30 PM. All ministry leaders are asked to attend but especially the ministries that use the facilities in the Parish Hall. The agenda of the meeting will include the yearly parish calendar, collaboration between the ministries for scheduling of events, joint sponsorship of events, and reviewing the guidelines for parish hall use. An email will be going out to the ministry leaders in the next couple of weeks. Please plan to attend or have a representative from your ministry attend. We look forward to seeing you.

Baker's Dozen by Mary Beth Frewin

We are starting our sixth year of providing homemade treats for Saturday night hospitality gathering and various church functions and receptions such as Confirmation and First Communion. I have a dedicated core of 8 to 10 women and men who bake for almost every event plus an additional 15 or so who help when they can. A member can bake for every event or only once or twice a year. I would love to have you join us. You can email me at mbfrewin@nycap.rr.com or call at 518-399-7736.



Thank you.

Respect for Life Ministry

Our mission is to promote respect for life from conception to natural death.

Spring 40 Days for Life Campaign Ends

During Lent this world-wide program of prayer, fasting and community outreach to end abortion returned to Schenectady. Since 2007, 12,668 lives (that we know of) have been saved as a result of these campaigns. Yes, lives have been saved right here in Schenectady thanks in part to participation by our parishioners. These are the fruits of this labor. <https://40daysforlife.com/schenectady>

Spiritual Adoption Underway

During sign-up Sunday in February, 61 parishioners "spiritually adopted" in prayer, 70 unborn babies in danger of abortion. They've named their spiritually adopted baby and pray daily, "Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I pray to you for the unborn child that I have spiritually adopted whose life and health is in danger." Keep watching the bulletin for monthly updates on mother and baby for 9 months until we celebrate these babies' births. <http://www.spiritualadoption.org/>

Join This Ministry

Consider joining us at our Respect Life Ministry meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Watch the bulletin for meeting announcements.

Contact: Larry Smith: 384-0882; LPJTSmith6@msn.com

Ministry Updates-cont.

The Welcoming Committee Calls All I.C. Chefs

The *Welcoming Committee* is proud to announce that we are producing a ***Parish Cookbook*** to be published in late 2017!



We want *your* most favorite recipes, a family recipe that has been passed down through the generations, or that never fail recipe that everyone asks for! We need recipes from as many families as possible to make this cookbook a success. You can submit up to 5 recipes using the two formats below:

To Submit Recipes Online (preferred):

- Go to www.typensave.com and click 'Login.'
- Enter the User Name: ICRecipes
- Enter the password: jelly999 and click 'Submit.'
- Enter your name and click 'Continue.'
- Click 'Add Recipes' to begin adding your recipes.

To Submit Handwritten Forms:

- Please use **one form** for each recipe. Forms will be available in the Gathering Space at church or request a form by emailing: icmg63@gmail.com or slowe1@nycap.rr.com.
- Return forms in the box marked "RECIPES" in the Gathering Space.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS: MAY 6TH, 2017

We hope to have the cookbook available for purchase by end of Summer. Order Forms and pricing information T/B/D. Questions or concerns? Please contact Michele Geissler at 882-5472; icmg63@gmail.com OR Sandy Lowe at 885-7339; slowe1@nycap.rr.com

THANK YOU!

Faith Formation

By Madeline Fretto and Michele DeLorenzo



We have 5 students in the Faith Formation Rainbow class who will be making their Confirmation on Sunday, May 7, 2017. The students have been together, along with their catechists, Mrs. Cathy Terwilliger and Mrs. Berenice Ormsbee, ever since they made their First Communion.

Please keep, KRISTA CHAISSIN, MICHAEL CRISPINO, GRIFFIN BELROSE, ROBERT KENNEY AND ZACHARY ROBERTS in your prayers as they approach their very special day, when they receive their final Sacrament of Initiation into the church.

Also from the Rainbow Class, Maeve Igoe will be making her First Communion on Saturday, May 6, 2017. Please keep Maeve in your prayers. Mrs. Katie Igoe, Maeve's mom is also a Rainbow Catechist.

Please see Faith Formation, page 8

Ministry Updates-cont.

RCIA by Kim Klementowski



This ministry helps guide seekers along their faith journey, teaches them about our Catholic faith and assists them in receiving the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, First Eucharist and Confirmation) to enable them to be full members of our Catholic faith and our wonderful parish.

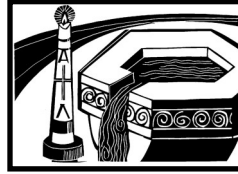
This past Easter, three amazing men and one woman were brought into full communion with our Catholic Faith. Oliver Presson received the sacraments of Baptism and First Eucharist, while Bill Antrim and Jim Rose received the sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist. Erin LaRue received the sacrament of Confirmation. All 4 have been warmly welcomed into our parish, thanks to all of you.

Many of you may not know what RCIA is exactly and I'm sure many of you know someone (family member, friend, spouse, co-worker, etc) who may be interested and may benefit by the process. RCIA stands for the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. It's not a program; it's a process. A program has a definite start and a definite end. RCIA is an on-going faith journey...it's intended to assist adults who are seeking full communion with the Catholic Church through the sacraments of initiation which are Baptism, First Eucharist and Confirmation. There isn't any age limit. So if you've never been baptized or if you were baptized in another Christian Faith, this process is for you. If you were baptized Catholic but have never received the sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation, this process is for you as well. If you are only in need of Confirmation, we along with Christine Goss from Youth Ministries are currently working on the development of an adult confirmation only process. If you've received all of your sacraments but have been away from the Catholic Church for a number of years, we can help you too.

If you, or someone you know, have a desire to learn more about coming into full communion with the Catholic Church, please feel free to talk to Fr Jerry, Deacon Mike, call our parish office at 399-9168, or contact me. On behalf of our entire RCIA team, we welcome you and are eager to be a part of your journey. ALL ARE WELCOME!!

Contact: Kim Klementowski: 384-2234; kdklem2@aol.com

Times of Joy—Sacramental Milestones



Congratulations and welcome to these children who received the Sacrament of Baptism from November 28, 2016 to April 12, 2017.

We pray for the grace these families need to grow in their faith.

Caroline Mae, child of Michael & Bridget Canary

Noah James, child of Joseph & Mary Nally

Dominic Santino, child of Santino & Britani D'Amario

Clark Andrew, child of Michael & Kathryn Siedsma

Sophia Kasia, child of Andrzej & Beata Babiuch

Daniel Joseph, child of Michael & Amy Richardson

Pilgrimage, continued from page 1

were in this together, helping one another, encouraging one another, and doing what we could to make a joyful path together. It seemed as if we could all cooperate, no matter what our differences.

Another thing I talked about was that I had to learn to travel light and to let go of things. Sometimes that meant letting go of things, such as acknowledging that my boots would never work and that I had to buy new shoes. At other times it meant letting go of feelings or expectations, as well as perceptions and points of view. It became clear that these "ideas" did not serve me, and certainly did not serve God.

To be able to talk about all the literal and figurative ups and downs of the trek, all the uphill challenges, and the discovery that downhill was often tougher than up was a gift beyond measure. To do so before a crowd of people of different faiths was an even greater gift. To do so in a mosque was perhaps that best gift of all. It was particularly poignant to be able to speak of trusting God in new ways, and being transformed through God's love, all accomplished by saying yes.

May we all present ourselves to God, open and willing, ready to be changed in ways we might have never wished for, but ways which make us grateful to go forth.

(Please note, I hope to be able to offer a talk here at the parish in the autumn. Stay tuned!)

SAVE THE DATE- MORNING OF SERVICE SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2017!

The second Parish Morning of Service has been scheduled for Saturday November 4, 2017. The planning committee is already hard at work to put together a day that is meaningful for you and the community.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by at the gathering space during Hospitality on April 1 and 2. We appreciate the suggestions we received from you about projects and preparation. Thank you to those who already volunteered to be a team leader or helper.

You can be sure that we are listening to you! This year we are looking at ways to improve the sign-up procedure, to reduce and simplify team leader responsibilities, and to secure some new projects as well as some popular ones from last year.

We can really use your help. Would you like to be involved in the planning? Or be a team leader? Or help prepare materials? If so please contact MaryAnn or Janice at ICServiceChair@gmail.com

Below is a sampling of photos from last year's event. We think you will be impressed by all you accomplished on that beautiful November morning. For more photos, log into the parish web site, www.icglenville.com, then click on *Parish Life*, then click on *Parish Photos*, then scroll down to *Morning of Service 2016* and click. Enjoy!



Meet Maryann Haskell, Parish Trustee

To Maryann Haskell, being a member of Immaculate Conception is more than going to Mass once a week. It is being part of a church family, a community. And as a church trustee, she works to promote that attitude among parishioners through her involvement in church activities and church business.

The major responsibility of a trustee is a fiduciary one. They monitor the monetary affairs of the church in order to protect its financial wellbeing. Together with Dan Silva, our other trustee, Maryann has overseen building projects like the new church kitchen from budgets to construction. The trustees also advise Fr. Jerry and act as liaisons between parishioners who often contact them with concerns and the church administration. Obviously this position is a time-consuming one which is well suited to a retiree's schedule.

A native of Amsterdam, Maryann graduated from St. Mary's Institute and went on to receive a degree from Albany Business College and take courses at St. Rose, Siena, Maria, and SCCC. For 28 years, she was the director of human resources for the non-profit Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene. She finished her career there leading the conversion of the organization's data to an Oracle-based system. Both of these work experiences have become valuable for Maryann in her capacity as trustee.

As busy as she is with trustee duties, Maryann thinks that the best part of the position is all that she has learned and continues to learn through the everyday operation of the parish and the many projects that have gone on. In the future, she would like to see our hall renovated to be more user-friendly as a gathering

place for all, including youth programs and the faith formation program. This is consistent with Maryann's strong desire to promote the church as community where people are active and excited to be there and all feel they are part of a church family.



Maryann and her husband Roger are the parents of four grown children and the grandparents of seven. They enjoy attending events of the two grandchildren who live nearby in Ballston Spa. Otherwise she enjoys gardening, computing and all the church activities she is part of. She is a member of the Pastoral Council, the Finance Committee, and the Stewardship Committee. Maryann is a Eucharistic Minister, and a member of the Resurrection Ministry. She also works on the picnics and the Holy Thursday suppers and participated in the church service day. In her own words, Maryann is "around the church" a lot.

Maryann is "honored and humbled" to hold the position of trustee for Immaculate Conception. She believes Immaculate Conception is blessed to have its many volunteers, many of whom work behind the scenes to maintain the parish and its programs. And the parish is certainly blessed to have Maryann, who believes we have all been "called to come together as a church family" and is working to strengthen that community spirit among us.

Faith Formation, continued from page 4

We were very proud to introduce 12 Students of the Month at the children's Masses this year, and introduce five exceptional young readers at the masses.

Once again our February Father/Daughter Valentine Dance was a great hit. We had 97 dads and daughters dine and dance the night away for what was way past everyone's bedtime. Amazingly, all the young ladies showed up for class on Sunday morning.

The Catechist Night of Reflection was held on March 9, 2017. We had 26 Catechists in attendance. It is a wonderful opportunity for the Catechists to get acquainted or re-acquainted with each other over dinner and a quiet reflective evening of song and story.

The Sixth Grade Class had their "Praying in Color" workshop on Tuesday, March 21 from 5:30 to 7:00 PM. The evening was attended by 23 students and two of their catechists. So they could enjoy some social time together, the students enjoyed pizza and subs before the workshop began.

The First Eucharist workshop was held on Saturday, April 1, from 10:00 to Noon. We started the morning off in the gym, where the children learned the meaning of the Jewish celebration of Passover, and the Seder Meal that Jesus ate at his Last Supper. We then moved to the church where we met up with Fr. Jerry who spoke with the children about the Eucharist, and why Jesus did what he did at the Last Supper. The children practiced receiving the bread

and wine before returning to the gym for a story and some music. The First Communion rehearsal will be held on Wednesday, May 3 from 4-5P M in the church. FIRST COMMUNION will be held on Saturday, May 6, 2017 at 10:00 AM.

The May Crowning of our Blessed Mother will be on Sunday, May 7, following the 11:00 AM mass.

Our year is coming to an end with the last class on Sunday, April 30, 2017, followed by the Children's Alleluia Mass at 11 AM.

Thank you to all of our "Amazing Catechists," to the children, and their parents for another wonderful year in Faith Formation

Have a safe and fun filled summer!

With love, Madeline and Michele



In this fourteenth 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
- 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:

July 15 and 16:
 Distribution of the next
 issue of the Pipeline
July 3:
 Submissions due