



Day of Service: Looking Back and Looking Forward

By Janice Zaengle and MaryAnn Johnson, Co-Chairs 2016 Morning of Service

On November 5, about 400 parishioners participated in the first parish-wide Morning of Service. We started the day with a short prayer service led by Father Jerry. Then some 200 parishioners travelled to 16 different sites to visit with the elderly, sort and organize materials, prepare meals and build, paint and clean up. In addition, another 200 parishioners worked on-site and made items that were sent to local organizations - 31 comfort blankets and welcome bags to Ronald McDonald House, about 60 heart pillows to health facilities, 100 super-hero capes to the



Visiting at Glendale Home



Making superhero capes

Children's Hospital at Albany Med., 30 wreaths to veteran homes in the area, 75-80 Rosary bracelets to St. Joseph's Place

for further distribution, 66 pet beds to the Animal Protection Agency, and numerous Thanksgiving decorations such as lighted trees, pumpkins, swans, wreaths, and cornucopias to Sunnyview Hospital. Many hundreds of hours of service were lovingly given by the parishioners of Immaculate Conception to the local community.

The Morning of Service planning committee co-chairs are very appreciative of the feedback we have received from parishioners and organizations who participated in the November 5, 2016 Parish Morning of Service. One hundred and ninety six evaluation forms were reviewed. An overwhelming 99% of the survey respondents want our parish to provide this opportunity again and 162/166 volunteers that completed the survey indicated that they would participate again. In response to how often should we hold such an event, 62 would like to see the event hosted annually, 62 indicated semi-annually, 18 preferred quarterly and 11 monthly. Eighty three percent of the respondents would like the event to remain a half day.

Many parishioners shared a memorable moment and many of these moments related to meeting new parishioners, feelings of fellowship, a stronger connection to the community and participating in projects that had a positive impact on our community. Here are some examples: "Hearing the laughter and seeing smiles as people work together. The kids notes were just heartwarming." "It's a good idea to do this - I would like the opportunity to be exposed to more volunteer places where I would not initially go alone." "It was as beneficial for me as I hope it was for (name omitted) who I played Yahtzee, checkers, slot machine and poker with. I also met a wonderful sixteen year old, (name omitted) who was volunteering as well. She helped both (name omitted) and I learn the games we did not know." "Wonderful making a meal, meeting fellow parishioners, laughing & sharing stories." "I think all the organizations chosen for the day of service were wonderful, and I think some people might decide to continue volunteering for the site they participated in which is great. It's too bad it could not be managed more than once a year. I'm sure it was rewarding for all of us."

For those of us that would like more opportunities to provide service on an on-going basis, we are fortunate to have many ministries right here at Immaculate Conception that are seeking volunteers. Please stop by before or after Mass to learn more about these ministries and sign up to join one or more. Many of these ministries serve members of our parish directly and like the Morning of Service serve local organizations.

Thank you for serving Christ and our community with mercy, compassion and humility.



Sorting materials at miSci



Tagging Glenville ash trees

Ministry Updates

Family Events Ministry

As we are all created in the image of God to be good shepherds, the Family Events Ministry was newly formed this winter.

Proverbs 22:6 tells us to "Start children off on the way they should go and even when they are old they will not turn from it." This ministry hopes to encourage our Catholic faith through faith-filled activities throughout the year to strengthen the bonds of church and home.

Throughout the year, the Family Events Ministry will host these activities and provide assistance to other church ministries as well. The first event for this ministry, *Around the World with the Saints, International Potluck Dinner* is scheduled for this weekend, January 14th, 2017 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in our parish center. Music, Bingo and children's activities will be provided. All are welcome to join this ministry or provide volunteer assistance.



Contact: Jaimie Peterson: 708-7167; jaimiewp@gmail.com.

Resurrection Ministry

The Resurrection Ministry is a group of parishioners who assist our pastor, Fr. Jerry, at every funeral service held at our church. Members are liturgical readers, Eucharistic ministers, altar servers, greeters, and cross bearers. They also help with incense and the placement of the pall. If you are looking for a way to share your talents through a ministry, or have any questions about this ministry, please call Arleen DiCaprio at 214-4033. New members are welcome.

Knights of Columbus by Manuel Salorio

The **Glenville Knights of Columbus** would like to thank everyone who supported us this past year. We are celebrating our 27th anniversary this year and are planning a number of community activities for this spring. We will once again be serving a fish dinner each Friday during Lent, and awarding a high school student with a \$2,000 Scholarship. This past year the **Glenville Knights of Columbus** contributed over \$8,500 to various charities and hundreds of man hours to community service.

The **Glenville Knights of Columbus, Council 10013**, responded to a plea from Fr. Alexander Choka for funds to replace his worn and broken automobile. In short order they sponsored a spaghetti dinner and with the warm response of the community of **Immaculate Conception Church** raised \$3500.00. These funds along with other contributions from the Friends of Musoma, reached the \$10,000 goal.

If you are a man over 18 years old and would like to contribute some of your time to helping others in our community, we invite you to join the **Knights of Columbus**. Meeting attendance is not necessary. More information can be had by contacting another Knight (many of our Ushers are Knights) or calling

Jim Martin
887-2543, or
Jerry Havasy
406-5675.



Spaghetti dinner scene and crew.



Ministry Updates-cont.



Just 5 Days! For the 1st time, this summer our parish is challenging middle school age youth to see what they can do to positively impact our world in Just 5 Days! "Just 5 Days" is a week-long mission trip organized by the Center of Ministry Development. We are excited to be planning a trip in July to Springfield, Massachusetts to serve the less fortunate in the city.

Are you a current 6th, 7th, 8th grader? Interested in finding out more about this amazing opportunity? Please contact Christine Goss at 399-9203 or cicyouth@nycap.rr.com

Respect for Life Ministry

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

Peace in the Womb Prayer Vigil to end Abortion

The idea of this nationwide effort is simple: to bring the hope and joy of Christmas to one of the world's darkest places, the abortion clinic, in hopes that the familiar sounds of Christmas carols might save a life. And, in fact, lives have been saved by such peaceful, prayerful witness when women heard the singing and chose life for their children. On a seasonable Saturday afternoon this past December 17, we gathered around an empty manger with candles to sing our Christmas carols at the Planned Parenthood facility in Schenectady. <https://prolifeaction.org/action/caroling/>

Spiritual Adoption

You can "spiritually adopt" in prayer an unborn child in danger of abortion. We will follow mother and baby for 9 months until we celebrate these babies' births. Watch the bulletin for more information on this program that will start soon. <http://www.spiritualadoption.org/>

40 Days for Life

During Lent (March 1 through April 9), this world-wide program of prayer, fasting and community outreach to end abortion returns to Schenectady. Since 2007, 12,668 lives have been saved. <https://40daysforlife.com/schenectady>

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

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

ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY plans Annual Tag Sale

The ladies of the Rosary Altar Society will be holding their annual TAG SALE Friday May 19th (8am - 6pm) and Saturday May 20th (8am-noon- bag sale 12:30pm-2pm). Items for sale will include clothing, household items, books, jewelry, holiday items and lots more. To donate items for the sale please watch the bulletin for information.

Raffle tickets will be available at the times of the sale and we will also have 50/50 raffle tickets available before and after a mass at a time to be announced in the bulletin. Last year's 50/50 winner took home over \$400.00. Remember to win you need to buy a ticket!

We have a great time getting ready for the sale and also during the two days we are selling our items. All members of the parish are invited to join us in this worthwhile endeavor.

Remember as you are doing your spring cleaning to save the good stuff for us and donate the unsellable items to the garbage man. Monies realized from the sale will be donated to many worthy charities in our area.

Contact: Carol Baumgartner: cabtc@hotmail.com

Ministry Updates-cont.

Immaculate Conception Welcomes Two RCIA Candidates

By Teri Gay, Photos by Julie Ashcroft

On Monday nights in the Library of the Parish Center, a unique and important journey is taking place. Not a trip of planes, trains, and automobiles, but a journey of transformation in faith. Steadfast in this walk are Bill Antrim, a former Lutheran, Pentecostal, and Jehovah's Witness and Jim Rose, who previously worshipped in Protestant and Evangelical churches. On November 5th, both men became Candidates in RCIA (Rite of Catholic Initiation for Adults), demonstrating their desire to learn about Catholicism, deepen their relationship with Jesus, and come into full communion with the Catholic Church this Easter.

RCIA is a vital ministry at Immaculate Conception – and in Catholic churches around the United States and the world. The ancient tradition of the Catechumenate was restored internationally in the 1970's as an outgrowth of the Second Vatican Council and took shape as the conversion process we know today as "RCIA." Rather than leading potential Catholics individually and privately through the Sacraments of Baptism, First Eucharist, and Confirmation, the modern RCIA process offers a faith-filled experience that provides for learning within a community of seekers. Unbaptized seekers are called Catechumens as they journey through RCIA; those already-baptized seekers are known as Candidates.

At our church, RCIA is led by Kim Klementowski, along with Teri Gay, and Mike and Maria Groves. Fr. Jerry and Deacon Mike Melanson guide and advise us throughout the process.

At the Monday evening ninety-minute sessions (which run from September to May), Bill and Jim are learning about all aspects of Catholicism. Weekly presentations include such topics as Prayer and Faith, Sin and Grace, the Creed, Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory, Saints, Liturgy, Morality, Catholic Social Teaching, the Eucharist, Scripture and Revelation, Advent, Lent, Easter, Miracles, and Salvation. Members of the RCIA teaching staff are: Sean Caron, Joe Bucci, Hank and Joyce Maddalone, Gerry and Jerry Havasy, Paul and Carol Heckman, Julie

Ashcroft, Suzi Tremblay, along with Kim, Teri, Mike and Maria, Deacon Mike, and Fr. Jerry.

Both Bill and Jim have expressed a profound devotion to their RCIA studies and are eager to participate fully in the life of the Catholic Church and the Immaculate Conception community.



Bill Antrim lives in Glenville and has been attending our church for about five years with his wife, Sandy, who is also his Sponsor. He has two adult children – a son Chris and a

daughter Megan. Bill is retired, and is very active in serving the local area as a volunteer firefighter. His hobbies include photography, fly fishing, and growing flowers. He shared this about his faith journey: "It was time in my life to join the Church." He also said he is enjoying the RCIA process and meeting new friends who share his interests and love for the Lord.

Jim Rose lives in Schenectady and has been attending Immaculate Conception since last fall. His Sponsor is Cindy Peterson, who is a very active parishioner at our church. Jim's family hails from



Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Florida. He is a Men's and Women's Ministry Associate at the Schenectady City Mission and is also on the staff of Habitat for Humanity of Schenectady County.

RCIA, continued

In addition to his love of volunteering, he enjoys skiing and woodworking. Jim’s goals in pursuing RCIA are “enlightenment, spiritual growth, more structure and discipline in my faith walk, and to grow closer to God.” He is dedicated to “positive self-improvement” and to gaining a “better understanding of the doctrine of the original Church and the history of Christianity, as well as the chance to study and be part of the authentic form of Christianity, thereby allowing a more complete submission and surrender of myself to God.”

In his eloquent words, Fr. Jerry makes clear the link – and the mutual benefit – between seekers *and* our welcoming faith community here at Immaculate Conception in creating a successful RCIA process and in developing disciples for Jesus:

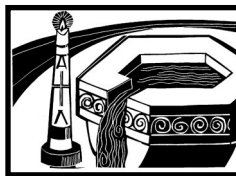
“We have been blessed over the years to have new people interested in knowing more about Jesus through the lens of the Catholic Church. Welcoming new inquirers to the Church is the responsibility of all the church members. But, it also requires a dedicated team of parishioners to teach the Gospel and the teachings of the Church to the seekers. Hopefully, once received into the Church, the new members will pass on what they have come to know and cherish. In other words, seasoned disciples are creating new disciples! I have great admiration for those who share their faith with others week after week. It’s not just about teaching Scripture. It’s about sharing hearts and life stories. It’s about a generous offering of time and talent to do whatever it takes to make inquirers of our faith committed, educated, and faith-filled Catholics.”

Please make welcome our two new Candidates, Bill Antrim and Jim Rose, and keep them in your thoughts and prayers as we journey together through Lent and the Easter season.

For further information about RCIA, please contact the Parish Office at 399-9168.



Times of Joy—Sacramental Milestones



Congratulations and welcome to these children who received the Sacrament of Baptism from October 29, 2016 to November 27, 2016. We pray for the grace these families need to grow in their faith.

Nina Grace, child of Tanner & Dana Brockmann

Adeline Jane, child of Jared & Jacqueline Montgomery

Carter Jeffrey, child of Lyndsay Wilson

Noah Daniel, child of Matthew & Emily Johnson

Bennett James, child of Michael & Edda Roemelt

Leanna Lou, child of Anthony & Amy Cremo

Ava Marie, child of Patrick & Jaclyn Kelly

This couple was married between October 10, 2016 and November 26, 2016. We wish God's blessing upon them.

Kelsey Schwan to Christopher Van Alstyne

Blisters and Blessings along the Way By Fran Rossi Szpalczyn

Note: In September, Fran walked the ancient pilgrimage route known as the Camino de Santiago, or The Way of St James, often known as just "The Way." The route has many variations but the most commonly used one begins in St Jean Pied de Port France, in the Pyrenees mountains of southwest France. Crossing the first major peak, pilgrims enter Spain and make their way across the country, crossing hills, long plains, high mesas, and back into the mountains of Galicia, a region in northwestern Spain. It is here that they enter the City of Santiago de Compostela. Santiago is the Spanish name for St James, Compostela means field of stars. Pilgrims have trekked this road for over 1000 years to pray at the tomb of the apostle St James. The journey is approximately 500 miles.

It felt like I was ready, so ready – really ready. It was a Sunday morning and the weather was good. Despite a pretty awful night’s sleep, I did not feel too badly. We attended mass at the local church, which was offered in the Basque language. The music was lovely, and we received a pilgrim blessing. Peeking out through some clouds was a yellow sun offering warmth. Thus



Fran, friend Sue and Deeanne meeting on the first day

began those early steps on the Camino! Everything was fine until we got to the first big hill, which happened fairly quickly. Oh my – it was a big hill. A really big, steep hill that rose up, seeming nearly vertical at times. Maybe I wasn’t so ready at all! Ready or not, we joined millions of people who, for over a thousand

years, have trod this particular path in honor of St James, and in the name of Jesus.

So about that hill stuff... It was really steep, steeper than I imagined. Slowly I went, much more slowly than Sue, but I huffed and puffed my way up the mountain, wondering all the while why the steepness was steeper than I imagined. This all reminded me of a great metaphor for our journey of faith – we often think we are ready, that we are in great spiritual shape, only to find out that may not be the case. That is



Fran climbing

why going on pilgrimage was such a great gift, the physical and incarnational elements of our walk of faith lived out on the road.

When Jesus told his disciples “take nothing for the journey” (Luke 9:3) he meant it – nothing. A pilgrim in the middle ages would have very little, a leather pouch, a dried gourd for scooping water, a rough-hewn walking stick, sandals and a hat. We modern types take the advice more loosely, getting pretty nice packs, hiking poles; good boots or trail runners, and more. While it felt the opposite of luxury, it was not the old way. And while it often felt challenging, it was a great reminder that what I had was indeed luxury to many others in the world.

The idea to take very little is to reinforce our dependence on God and on finding that our needs would be met daily, one way or another. Yes – you know, the antithesis of modern daily life, where we like to plan for every eventuality and never be inconvenienced. When all that you have has to be carried on your back, your back becomes a great editor for deciding what stays and goes, with convenience having long disappeared in the rear view mirror of the mind. Perhaps the only eventuality that you pray for is that you have the strength to place one foot in front of the other.

In any case, we took a short route that first day, albeit one with that incredibly stark vertical incline. Stopping at Orisson, which can hardly be called a village, it is really just a spot with a pilgrim refuge, we checked into the establishment. Ahhh, to be somewhere! Not so fast - I was told that I would have to remove

the items necessary for the evening and to sleep from my pack, as the woman handed me a black garbage bag. What?! I was instantaneously overwhelmed-I was a day-one baby pilgrim, how the heck did I know what I needed?! So I tried to put almost my entire backpack contents



Refuge Orisson

into the garbage bag. And yes – she did notice, so I was busted! My first lessons of steeper climbs and challenging choices were gifts that day, even though they did not feel like it at the time! (I later found out that they had a bedbug issue at some point, and were hyper vigilant about letting any backpacks into certain quarters. Backpacks are like the NYC subway of bedbugs!)

The days went on, steep climbs for the first two, as well as a long, steep decline on day two. That is when I learned that downhill is typically much harder than uphill. The quest for patience brought forth other gifts, such as those of persistence, faith, hope, and at the worst moments, total dependence on Christ just to be able to keep moving. It's funny how in retrospect, those worst moments make some of the best memories, and always make the richest gifts from God. Lest you begin to think that it was all trudging and drudgery on the road, I can promise you that it was not. There was so much joy; I can hardly put it into words.

Days began with breakfast, often just some bread and jam, yogurt if you were lucky, and coffee. We would head out at about 7AM or so, and it was dark at that hour for much of our journey. After walking for anywhere from two to three hours we would stop for one of the best moments of the day – SECOND BREAKFAST! Until I went on Camino, I did not know that second breakfast was a thing! In fact, unless you are walking 15 miles a day or so, at a brisk pace at that, with a big pack on, I do not recommend this supplemental meal, because you will certainly gain weight! However, on Camino, it was a great time of day. At second breakfast



Second breakfast

you would end up eating a Tortilla Española, which is a dish made of eggs, potatoes, and onions. It is delicious. Or maybe you would have a bocadilla, which is a sandwich on baguette-like bread. It might be ham, cheese, or both, or sometimes even a Tortilla Española on bread. Spain is a paradise of carbohydrates, which was only countered by the intense physical activities. There would also be wonderful café con leche coffee drinks and freshly squeezed orange juice. The food was generally great, but what was really wonderful was gathering with pilgrim friends, those we knew and those we just met. That's what I really loved about second breakfast. How Catholic – gathered for a communal meal!

While our gatherings at meals and other social times were always full of convivial spirit and joy, our walking was something else. Even when the path was more crowded, or when we were in a group, we would all walk more or less loosely gathered and in silence. Some people would use headphones to listen to music or podcasts, but generally I found that I just wanted to hear the sounds around me... Sometimes other peoples' conversations, sometimes the wind

in the trees or the call of a bird; it could have been the bleating of sheep or the sound of cows mooing, or perhaps the sound of water in a running river. Sometimes it was just fairly silent save the click-click-click of walking poles on stone pathways. In a world full of noise and activity, hours of silence like that were lavish gifts from God.

We also live in a world where we are on a timetable. Got to get to work, got to go to the store, got to pick up the kids, got to got to got to go. On the Camino, by walking every day, seeing so many sights along the way, hearing those sounds, having the silence, a tremendous blessing was found in awareness and presence. Sometimes it was because of a slippery path that demanded full attention, but so often it was just the luxury of taking so many steps to get from place A to place B. Speaking of presence and awareness, I was deeply aware of your presence as angels of prayer when I was in trouble with my infected feet. I felt you all and I felt God at work, I am deeply grateful!

All in all the Camino was an extraordinary experience. Every time I try to write about it, I feel as if I can never capture the sense of being or use the right words. There are so many stories, a short piece like this can't really contain them, but I will seek times and ways to share them with you as we go along.

Moving forward, I am aware that while we all can't undertake a trip like this one, we can all be on pilgrimage with one another in our daily lives. Let's gather up our packs together in prayer, walking together each day. It can be challenging at first, but we will get stronger. Are you ready? Let's go! The hills are steep, but the views are beautiful, and the presence of God is found in our every step.



With Dave, somewhere in Meseta

Meet the Staff: Patty Nally, Youth Ministries Assistant



In her job as Youth Ministries Assistant, Patty Nally is responsible for taking care of many administrative details: recording student service hours, handling the paperwork for the Confirmation classes, organizing supplies, and helping to plan and prepare for events. Recently she has put

together the materials for the new Sunday night Bible study program. A big part of her job is to maintain the Youth Ministry bulletin board located in the faith formation building making sure that it is relevant to our youth and up to date on the happenings within the Youth Ministry department. She uses use positive quotes, happy sayings, and music selections to show students the importance of faith and prayer and to help them realize that our God is always with them no matter where they are in life and that He will get them thru the good stuff and the not-so-good stuff. For Patty, all of this work contributes to a successful program and in turn to the youth of the parish and their spiritual growth.

Raised in Glenville, Patty grew up in her family home on Route 50, across the road from Buhmaster Farms, her father's business. She picked strawberries and beans on the farm but enjoyed most working in the stand because it gave her a chance to interact with people. She graduated from Scotia-Glenville High School and attended Cobleskill College, studying to be a professional chef, before she married her husband Mike. After living in Illinois, Georgia, and Corning, they moved back to Glenville where they have raised their six children.

Patty began volunteering in the religious education program as a bus monitor when students were bussed to class from the elementary schools. She then volunteered in the nursery and, for 15 years, taught 4th grade religion. Twice she was offered a

job at church but refused both times; believing the time was right for her family and that God was sending her a message, Patty accepted the third offer. That was ten years ago.

When asked what she likes most about her job, Patty cites the flexibility, companionship with Christine, and getting to know the youth and their spiritual growth as they move through the program. In fact, a highlight for her is seeing the changes in our young people at their Confirmation retreat: by the end there is a "light in their eyes" as they "feel the presence of God." Her hope is that they can hang on to that feeling. She has chaperoned the National Catholic Youth Conference where thousands of youth gather in a faith-filled environment.

With five grandchildren, Patty feels fortunate to have all of her children living locally. Enjoying the outdoors, she relaxes by hiking, camping, snowshoeing, canoeing and gardening. She also enjoys handcrafts like cross stitching and crocheting and, since her husband is now raising honeybees, she is making candles and soap. Both Patty and Mike are active in the Boy Scouts; she is the charter representative for the church to the Scout council.

Christine Goss, Director of Youth Ministries sums up Patty's contribution to the Youth Ministries Program: "Her presence allows me to continue to look ahead to the next thing, because she is finalizing the details of the event we just completed. But perhaps most importantly, she helps to ground me in the knowledge that God has a plan for each of us, for each day, for each moment. When I struggle with the things I cannot control, or outcomes that I am disappointed with, Patty reminds me that it really is not up to me – it is up to God." In talking with Patty, it is obvious that she loves her job. And what she does on the job is strengthened by her own faith and dedication to instilling that faith in our youth.

In this thirteenth 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:

April 22-23:
Distribution of the next
issue of the Pipeline

April 10:
Submissions due