



## Eddy Care Teams Offer Comfort

"Wonderful, compassionate, caring." These are the words one of our parishioners Darlene used to describe the care team which helped with her mother who suffered from Alzheimer's. In fact, Darlene played a significant role in initiating a care team here at Immaculate Conception. After a friend told her about an article she had seen about care teams in the *Evangelist*, Darlene brought the idea to Rachel Winters, Pastoral Care Coordinator, who was already visiting her mother, and Rachel worked with the Eddy to start a team here.

Sandy Monahan is the volunteer coordinator for the Eddy Alzheimer's care teams which have been in existence since 2002. In this position, Sandy helps to recruit, trains, and meets regularly with team members to discuss their work and plan for the coming weeks. Modeled on the Visiting Nurse AIDS care teams of the '90's, the goal is to train and organize volunteers who can help families with a loved one at home who has Alzheimer's. Notably, to emphasize the team approach and to put everyone on the same level playing field, the person with the disease is referred to as the "partner." With 75 different diagnoses producing some form of dementia, the need for services like this is significant.

Each team is made up of at least four members who agree to volunteer two or three hours every six weeks. Many of these volunteers have had personal experience with Alzheimer's. Training includes basic information about changes in the brain, dementia and the changes in behavior that it causes, and effective ways of communicating with the partner. The importance of confidentiality is stressed. Funded by grants from the State Department of Health, the program has a community focus and is set up to keep people at home although team members do continue to visit a partner who might be moved from the home to a memory care facility. There are currently twenty-four teams, most associated with churches, in the four counties of the Diocese.

When a family is dealing with a loved one suffering from Alzheimer's, managing the necessary 24-7 care is daunting. Statistics show that 40% of primary caregivers themselves eventually end up with some depression. Connecting with a care team becomes a lifeline. Sandy first goes to the home for the referral which she then brings to the team. Through regular meetings they will pursue a plan that will bring comfort and relief to the family and socialization and connectedness to the partner.



The team members perform non-direct care. They are companions, visiting with the partner at home or taking the partner out if possible. Although there is no medical component

to the work of the care team, care navigators are available through the Eddy when care in a facility or respite care is needed. In Darlene's case, team members often read to her mother, gave her snacks and would watch TV with her mom as well. Furthermore, rather than helping two or three hours every six weeks, the team members would come two or three hours a week, and in the last month of her mother's life, they often came without being asked.

Often volunteers say that they get more out of their volunteering than they give. This is evident with members of the care teams who support each other as well as the families, who become friends with each other and become like extended members of the families. Sandy calls them "extraordinary, compassionate people." Darlene has experienced the same power of the care team and she has become friends with the members who came into her home and helped with the care of her mother. In fact, Darlene has attended a couple of the care team meetings and has become a member of our care team herself.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Eddy Alzheimer's care team here at Immaculate Conception may contact Rachel Winters, Pastoral Care Coordinator, at 399-9168 ext. 226, or email [pastoralcarcic@gmail.com](mailto:pastoralcarcic@gmail.com).

## Ministry Updates

### Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) Schedules a “Meet & Greet”

by Kim Klementowski

The mission of RCIA is to help guide seekers along their faith journey, teach them about our Catholic faith and assist them in receiving the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, First Eucharist and Confirmation) enabling them to be full members of our Catholic faith and our wonderful parish.

RCIA stands for the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. I'm sure many of you know someone who may be interested and may benefit by the process. It's not a program with a definite beginning and ending. It's a process, an on-going faith journey with the purpose of assisting adults who are seeking full communion with the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Initiation. 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/or Confirmation, this process is for you as well. If you just need the sacrament of Confirmation or 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. Some who have been through the process have offered their reflections:

*I truly enjoyed the RCIA experience at Immaculate Conception. I always looked forward to our weekly classes because of the unbelievably kind and caring people that are part of the RCIA program. Not only did I learn a great deal about the Catholic faith, but I gained a faith family and learned a lot about myself in the process. The program helped me understand myself better as a person and as a Catholic.*

*I would advise those considering coming into the Catholic church to give yourself time. At first the process can seem overwhelming and you might feel as though you don't belong there; however, with time it becomes an extremely comfortable and rewarding process. As the weeks went on, I looked forward to learning more and more about the church and seeing my RCIA classmates and group leaders. Each person brought such an interesting perspective to the class and all opinions/questions were discussed openly. The group accepted each person so willingly it was a blessing to be a part of the program. Give yourself time to contemplate, reflect and change. Be kind and open-minded.*

*This past year I began as a Confirmation catechist teaching a group of students who were confirmed on May 7th. As a new Catholic, I was concerned that I would not know enough about the faith to teach these teens; however, it felt like God was offering a way for me to continue learning about my faith now that the RCIA process was over. I answered the call and am so glad I did. It was a very rewarding experience to talk with these young people about faith and help guide them toward the beautiful sacrament of Confirmation. I plan to continue as a Confirmation catechist this coming year.*

*I cannot imagine having gone through any other program but the RCIA program at the Church of the Immaculate Conception of Glenville. I would sum it up as one of the most thought-provoking, powerful and truly transforming processes I have been through in my life. This church is now a home to my husband and me and we are blessed to be a part of it!*

*Thank you for giving me a chance to gush about the program. I appreciate the opportunity to look back and remember just how wonderful it was becoming a member of this amazing church!*

April Nedwell



*A little bit of background...I had been attending Immaculate Conception since I got married in 1986, had my first son in 1988 and second in 1990. My husband and I agreed we wanted to raise our children Catholic. I would attend church every Sunday with my family but never received Communion. I always thought about the RCIA program but never pursued it until I had an opportunity to talk to Father Jerry. The time was right, in 2010 I went through the RCIA program and never looked back. I thought I knew a lot about being a Catholic, wow was I wrong! The program was so informative, but more importantly I felt very comfortable sharing and learning with my RCIA team. I looked forward to our meetings every Sunday. I planned my schedule around the meetings and was sad when it was over!*

*Immaculate Conception is such a blessing for me. When the RCIA program ended I wanted to stay involved. I felt I wanted to continue to learn and give back to the church. So many people gave up their time and shared their stories to make my RCIA experience a success. I just had to choose a ministry and get involved. There is a ministry for everyone. I work full time so I am somewhat limited as far as free time. I joined the picnic committee as soon as I finished the program. It was a great way to get to know lots of parishioners. About a year later I joined the newly formed Stewardship Committee, which has evolved to Chairing the Welcoming Committee. I have made some lifelong friends along the way. I plan on continuing with the ministries I am currently involved with; hopefully when I retire I will be able to get more involved.*

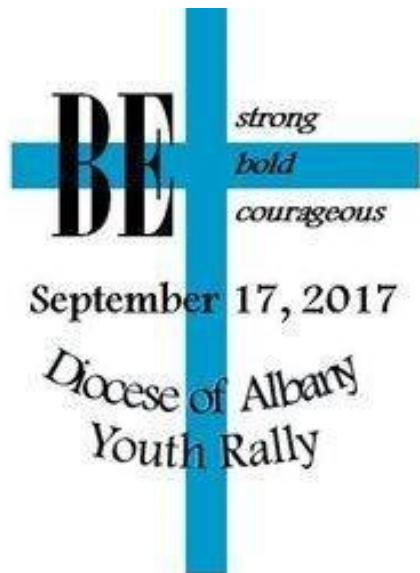
*I would say to anyone interested in RCIA program to talk to Father Jerry, Kim and someone who has been through the program. The one thing I felt with this program was that no one judged us. Everyone was very understanding and accepting. Everyone has a story and that's ok. Some had left the church for a brief time, some were divorced, some had never been exposed to religion; but that's their story, and now they are ready to go through RCIA, and this team will be accepting and make it fun along the way!*

Sandy Lowe

See RCIA, page 8

## Ministry Updates-cont.

Join us for an amazing afternoon of great music, activities, speakers, food and fun - with youth from across the Diocese of Albany.



Sunday, September 17, 2017

12:30pm – 6:30pm

Liturgy Celebrated at 5:30pm

Parents, friends, and family are welcome and encouraged to join us for Mass.

**For:** Middle School Youth in Grades 6 – 8

**Where:** Church of the Immaculate Conception 400 Saratoga Road, Glenville, NY 12302

**Cost:** \$12.00 (includes t-shirt, food, activities and more!) Scholarships available - Checks payable to “Immaculate Conception Church”

Bob Perron Keynote Presenter

ODB Films is a Catholic ministry that fosters an encounter with Christ through artfully made, spiritually rich films.

**ADVANCED REGISTRATION REQUIRED** Registration Deadline: August 28, 2017

Please return completed registration form and payment to:

Youth Rally Registration  
Church of the Immaculate Conception  
400 Saratoga Road, Glenville, NY 12302

Questions? Contact Christine Goss at 518-399-9203 or [cicyouth@nycap.rr.com](mailto:cicyouth@nycap.rr.com) or visit [www.icglenville.com/youth-rally](http://www.icglenville.com/youth-rally)

## Ministry Updates-cont.



The St. Vincent de Paul Society is made up of 8 to 12 adults dedicated to helping the needy members of our community without regard to religious beliefs. Members are available during the day, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., although they do not have to be available all the time.

A client who needs financial or food assistance should phone the rectory. The information given there, including the type of help needed and contact information, will be forwarded to a St. Vincent de Paul member on call, who, in turn, will contact the client to gather the details to satisfy the need. If the client needs food, the member will pick up supermarket and/or gas gift cards from the rectory and will then fill the appropriate number of boxes with available food, depending on the size of the family, from the food pantry in the pole barn. If the client is unable to pick up the food, it is delivered to the client's home in the Scotia or Ballston Spa area.

If the client is in need of financial assistance, contacts are made to National Grid, landlords, or other appropriate personnel to verify the validity of the request and ascertain the proper mailing address. Except in dire emergency, a client will not receive cash directly.

**Because some members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society cannot physically continue with the required duties, the organization is in need of adults who can replace them. The requirements are outlined above, but anyone who could not commit to these but would still be interested in assisting the group at Thanksgiving and Christmas would be welcome to help sort food and fill baskets at this time when the Society provides food and gifts to over 100 families.**

Please contact Joe Aglio for more information about the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Joe Aglio: 399-5395; mlouaglio@aol.com

### Respect for Life Ministry

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

**Fortnight for Freedom:** On June 28, about 40 parishioners gathered for a Eucharistic Holy Hour as part of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' annual June 21 through July 4 Fortnight for Freedom event. This year's theme was "Witness for Mission – Freedom to Bear Witness to Truth." We prayed that the Holy Spirit would give us the courage to bear witness to the truth of the Gospel, even in the face of social and legal pressure. The Holy Hour consisted of exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, scripture reading, reflection, meditation, Rosary procession around the church, and Benediction. <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/fortnight-for-freedom/index.cfm>.



**Spiritual Adoption Continues:** In February, 61 parishioners "spiritually adopted" in prayer 70 unborn babies in danger of abortion. They've named their spiritually adopted baby and are praying daily for nine months, "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 throughout these 9 months until we celebrate these babies' births

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

See Respect for Life, page 7

### Rosary Making Ministry by Linda Levine

With the generous support of the Knights of Columbus and the Rosary Alter Society, 10 dedicated members were able to make 939 rosaries this year. These were distributed locally to a variety of places including a number of Getty Gas Stations and to a street evangelizing group who sets up a table at the Albany airport. We were also able to fulfill a request for a few hundred rosaries made up of all pink beads for breast cancer awareness.

We welcomed three new members: Sandra Antrim, Maggie Doyle, and Liz Doyle. We also say goodbye and send off with a big "Thank You" to Anne LaBounty and Dorothy Hinds who have been members of the ministry for over 12 years and together are credited with making 3971 rosaries! By sharing their time and talent they contributed to our lifetime total of 34,506 rosaries.

New members are always welcomed. Stop in room 3, the first Tuesday of the month from September through June, at 7 p.m., and check it out or contact Linda Levine at 399-6965. It may be the ministry for you!

## The Story of a Priest by Fr. John Hunter

The following note was recently mailed to the rectory:

When I was a child (which today would be called a kid – although back then a kid was a baby goat) I was an altar server, and I had thoughts of becoming a priest. This lasted a few years.

When I graduated from high school in 1942 I was ready to go into the world. The next year, my “Uncle Sam” sent me a letter asking me to be a part of World War II. At his request, I joined the U.S. Navy.

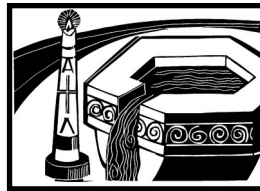
After the war was over and I left the Navy in 1946, I wanted to enter the seminary. At that point, my dad had died, my sister was married, and my mom was ailing, so I thought I better stay home. I graduated from Siena College and followed a teaching career for the next 34 years!

After my mom died, I finally retired from teaching and I joined the seminary, finally on my way to the priesthood. In 1986 I was ordained by Pope John Paul II. I never dreamed that would happen to me! I was a priest in the Archdiocese of New York until 2007.

At that point I came to the Albany diocese, and asked to celebrate masses as St. John the Baptist. After that I went to St. Margaret of Cortona in Rotterdam Junction, a very joyful and spiritual assignment, thanks be to God!

I am the priest who attends the 5PM mass on Saturday here at Immaculate Conception. You may recognize me with my rollator, and I am there with my cousin Mary Agnes Dame. Fr. Jerry has been most welcoming to me, as are all the parishioners. May the Lord bless us all, now and forever!

## Times of Joy—Sacramental Milestones



*Congratulations and welcome to these children who received the Sacrament of Baptism from April 12, 2017 to June 28, 2017. We*

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

Hayley Elizabeth, child of Andre-Pierre & Kathryn Chirol

Madigan Clare, child of Aaron & Kara Egan

Jackson Edward, child of Jay & Marissa Sousa

Grant Calvin, child of Nicholas & Tracey Kearns

Whitney Summer Mary, child of Edward & Rachel Lenart

Duke Matthew, child of Alex and Colleen Meier

Jacob Kevin, child of Kevin & Alicia Dunbar

Keegan Michael, child of Amin & Stacey Glass

Caden Blase, child of David & Amy Franze

*This couple was married between April 12, 2017 and June 28, 2017. We wish God's blessing upon them.*

David G. Nally to Lisa A. Laudato



## Our Lady Of Fatima Centennial: The Church of the Immaculate Conception Celebrates the 100th Year Anniversary of the Fatima Apparitions.

Come, participate, and be a witness to a very special, educational, prayerful, multi-ministry event as we honor Our Lady of Fatima. This October marks the 100th anniversary of our Blessed Mother's last appearance to 3 shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal. All are invited to come together and celebrate Mary's continued intercession and guidance, through movies and a live rosary. Watch the bulletin for details in the fall.

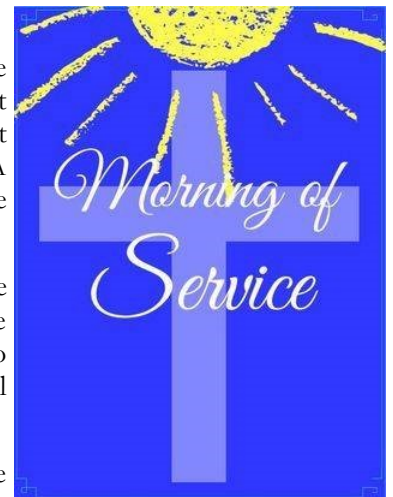
### November 4, 2017—Our Second Annual Morning of Service

Planning is underway for Immaculate Conception's Morning of Service to be held again on the first Saturday in November. Parishioners and committees have been meeting to plan the event which will again include off-site as well as in-house activities. One important change from last year is that we are offering electronic sign-up which will be linked from our church website. A phone contact and e-mail address will be available for those who do not wish to use the electronic option. Sign-ups will begin the weekend of the parish picnic in September.

Also this year, we will be having two morning sessions of in-house activities rather than the three we had last year. The sessions will now be 1 1/2 hours long and will afford participants the opportunity to have more time on their selected projects. We have added a few new recipients to our on-site activities. For example, we will be making Christmas cards for the military and pencil pouches for Operation Christmas Child.

Many of the off-site activities will again be scheduled for this year, but a few new ones will be added including the YWCA and the Heritage Home for Women.

If you participated last year, you already know what an enriching experience it was. If you did not join in, take a look at the list of off-site and in-house activities, which will be available in August, and consider volunteering this year.



### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2017

August 7 -11, 2017 8:45am – 12:30pm

Don't miss out on a great week of faith, fellowship and fun. Vacation Bible School is a summer-time favorite and a great way to continue to keep faith formation a part of your summer! Many TEEN and ADULT Volunteers are needed to make the week a great experience.

WHERE: Immaculate Conception Church, 400 Saratoga Road, Glenville

FOR: All kids entering kindergarten – grade 6 in the Fall 2017

COST: \$20 per child (\$60 family maximum) includes all supplies and a daily snack

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: July 28, 2017 --- but the earlier the better REGISTRATION FORMS are available outside of the Faith Formation Office and online at [www.icglenville.com/vbs2017](http://www.icglenville.com/vbs2017)

## Meet Dan Sliva, Parish Trustee

After 45 years as a member of Immaculate Conception and ten years as a trustee, Dan Sliva has had an opportunity to contribute to and be a part of many church activities and improvements in our church.

These improvements and activities have resulted in an increase in our Mass attendance and opportunities for volunteers (that appeal to families) which, in turn, attract others to be a part of our parish community... and Dan feels it is important to continue this effort.

Dan graduated from Lynch High School in Amsterdam and attended RPI from which he earned a degree in chemical engineering. He went on to earn a Master's Degree from the University of Rochester and a Ph. D in chemical engineering from RPI. After a thirty-year career in management at General Electric's R & D Center and the GE Silicone Business, Dan retired to pursue a variety of activities including serving as an adjunct professor at Union College and the College Saint Rose and sharing his talents as a board member of the Empire State Aerosciences Museum, Birthright of Schenectady, the Office of the Aging of Schenectady County, and the Great Sacandaga Lake Association.

Over the years, Dan's activities here at our church included the Residents Encounter Christ prison ministry, Called-to-be Church, the stewardship effort, ministry fairs,



the Renew program and the Parish Council, serving as president of that body for four years. Along with fellow trustee Maryann Haskell, Dan has taken an oath of fiduciary responsibility pledging to oversee the monetary affairs of the church in order to preserve its financial well-being and has also been involved in the various projects to upgrade our facilities, including the church interior, the rectory, and the parish center.

Through his work as trustee, Dan believes he has learned more about his Catholic faith and the operation of the Catholic Church; and by dealing with our many volunteer parishioners, who are very serious about their faith, he has learned more about his own faith. He has come to a greater appreciation of the importance of our church volunteers to the success of our parish and enjoys meeting and talking with parishioners. For relaxation, Dan always enjoyed the outdoors and has spent many days at his camp on the Sacandaga Reservoir.

Dan and his wife Ann are the parents of three children, two daughters and a son and the grandparents of four. To Dan and Ann, Immaculate Conception is like home, integral to the fabric of their lives. So, even though they have moved to Clifton Park from Woodhaven in Glenville, they will continue to be part, an important part, of our parish community.

## Respect for Life, continued from page 4

**40 Days for Life Campaign Returns to Schenectady in September:** Through this world-wide program of prayer, fasting and community outreach to end abortion we have seen 13,305 mothers (that we know of) choose life for their children ... 154 workers experience conversions and leave the abortion industry ... and 86 abortion facilities close their doors forever following peaceful 40 Days for Life vigils. Yes, lives have been saved right here in Schenectady thanks in part to participation by our parishioners who helped parents choose life for their children. These are the fruits of this labor. <https://40daysforlife.com/schenectady>

### Join This Ministry

Consider joining the Respect Life Ministry. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month (except June and July). Watch the bulletin for meeting announcements.

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

## RCIA, continued from page 2

*My journey with RCIA began at the beginning of October and lasted some 30 weeks. WOW, if I had known that it would take that long, I would have chosen some other religion! But seriously, it sounds like a long time, but it passed so very quickly. The instructors were extremely knowledgeable and the 1 1/2 hours that we spent on Monday nights just flew right by.*

*My wife Sandy, a "cradle Catholic," accompanied me to these classes and boy did she learn a lot. It seems that we as children are told to go to church to become good Christians and don't absorb the teachings of Christ or the church as much as we should have.*

*We made friends for life in the RCIA classes. We met people who welcomed us into the Catholic faith that we will never forget. People who we know care about us, love us and whom we will always be indebted to for their time and dedication.*

*I guess, if I had to sum it all up, I'd say that I wish anybody who had any questions about their faith would come to the RCIA class and put forth their questions or doubts.*

Bill Antrim

*My initial introduction to the Church of the Immaculate Conception is not all unique. Like many others, my first experience with Father Jerry and the congregation was at a funeral Mass. Over a relatively short period of time, I actually attended several funerals at Immaculate Conception. After each Mass, I was a bit taken aback with the sense of peace that I felt. In one particular situation, the funeral Mass was for a young woman who died under very tragic circumstances. While there certainly was a great deal of sadness and grief on the part of family and friends following her death, I was once again struck by the overwhelming sense of peace I felt as the service concluded. It was this experience that prompted me to return to Immaculate Conception each week. It truly is a mystery how joy and thankfulness can emerge from sadness and despair.*

*After attending weekly Mass for several months, Father Jerry invited me to learn more about RCIA. Truthfully, I was a little overwhelmed at the information meeting. I realized that I was not simply contemplating joining a weekly prayer group; I was making a commitment to God.*

*At the beginning of the first class, between services on a Sunday morning in October, I still wasn't sure if I was ready for such a commitment and spiritual journey. All doubt faded as I got to know my classmates and teachers. The group bit it off quickly and discussions flowed freely. There was a feeling of trust and camaraderie. I came to look forward to our*

*Sunday morning sessions. Kim Klementowski, Deacon Mike, and each of our session leaders provided us with essential information about what it means to live each day as a Catholic. Moreover, they seemed to anticipate our questions and doubts. No topic was "off limits." While I am sure that our teachers had an agenda or lesson plan for every class, it seemed like we rarely stuck to any preplanned script. Instead, our conversations were natural and free-flowing.*

*At the start of the process I certainly thought that 30 weeks of classes would be a daunting obligation. In fact, I came to enjoy and look forward to our sessions. Truth be told, I kind of miss our weekly gatherings. In part, the discussions helped me to become more calm and caring about those around me. Instead of being quick to judge others, I now have the peace of mind to get to know people and accept them for who they are. I definitely have become a better, husband, father, and son as a result of my spiritual journey. Again, it is the simple matter of learning the importance of putting others first.*

*While I am unsure where my spiritual journey will eventual lead me, I know that I am destined to be of service to others. Recently, I was hospitalized for several weeks. During that time I found great comfort in the regular visits from Eucharistic Ministers who celebrated Holy Communion with me. It is indescribable how these visits helped me to strengthen, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. For these reasons I find myself called to helping those who are hospitalized.*

David Wetzel

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 attend our next **Meet & Greet Session** scheduled for Monday, August 28, at 7pm, in the Flicker Room. Attendance does not mean commitment...it's just a way to find out if this is something you are interested in. In the meantime, please feel free to talk to Fr. Jerry, Deacon Mike or me or call our parish office at 399-9168. 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

In this fifteenth 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:

\_\_\_\_\_

**October 14-15**  
Distribution of the next  
issue of the Pipeline  
**October 2:**  
Submissions due