

PARISH PIPELINE

JANUARY, 2015



Church of the

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Immaculate Conception

“I have been blessed to have had this experience. . .”

Volunteering in Ecuador by Joe Pericone



In August of 2013 I began a year long volunteer position in Quito, Ecuador, with the Working Boy's Center. The center is a school for families who can't afford to send their children to school. During the day the kids go to school and at night the parents are given the opportunity to take classes as well. In addition to educational opportunities, the center provides families with three meals a day, medical, and dental care. One of the goals of the center is that the students, both adults and kids, receive a technical diploma as well as an education. A few of the areas where people can work towards their technical diplomas are carpentry, bakery, auto mechanics, hairdressing and seam-stressing.

The volunteers at the center are teachers and their teaching schedules may include gym, music, art, library, girls program, adult education, and of course English. No one has the same schedule and the schedule may be intense as volunteers work from about 8 in the morning to 8 at night, with various breaks.

I was mainly involved in the girls program, which I really enjoyed. It was two hours divided into twenty minutes of reading, computers, shower, and an hour spent making a craft. The idea behind girls program was to



give the girls the same chances as boys had to make money for their families. In Ecuador, boys sell candy on buses or shine shoes to help contribute to the household income. It is not, however, safe for girls to do these things, so the girls program was invented. There, I taught them to make crafts such as bracelets, necklaces, rosaries, and cards which I would sell to visitors as the year went on. I also taught the girls to learn how much materials cost, how much they could sell items for and how to avoid wasting materials.



The environment in the girls program was more relaxed than regular classes so I liked it more as I was able to get to know the kids better while still helping them.

Another class I enjoyed was adult education where students were able to learn basic math as well as reading and writing. They would come from a day of work and sit down with us for an hour four days a week. What I liked about adult education was how much the adults enjoyed being there and how eager they were to learn. It was the first time in my life that someone would ask me for homework or to help them make flashcards to study with. Working with them helped me realize how fortunate I am with the educational opportunities I have had. An example of this is with something as simple as signing my own name. I may sign my name without much thought, in a few seconds. For some of my students though, they would concentrate and focus as writing was a new concept to them. The adults were really inspiring and even though we were both tired from a day of working they often times made my day.

I met a lot of great, hard working people while volunteering with the Working Boy's Center. Getting to know the kids, the people at the center, and experiencing Ecuadorian culture has taught me so much that I will never forget. I feel fortunate to have been able to be a part of this organization that does so much for others. I know I have been blessed to have had this experience to help me grow and become who I am today.

A 2006 graduate of BH-BL, Joe graduated in 2010 from Binghamton University with a bachelors in mechanical engineering. Currently, he is working at K.A.P.L., from which he received a leave of absence for his volunteer work.

Ministry Updates

Bethlehem Tree Project

The Bethlehem Tree originated from the 'Church Renew' project, which took place in the 1980's. This means our parish has sponsored this project for about 30 years, and it continues to be successful year after year, due to the generosity of the parishioners.



We were able to provide approximately 1200 gifts, and had very few request cards left on the trees. We also had monetary gifts from a number of parishioners and from the Knights of Columbus, which were used to purchase gifts for those remaining requests.

There are many unseen hands working to make the Bethlehem Tree successful. They include: Tom Bigos, printing out the request cards; the Bethlehem Tree Committee, writing out the requests; the last-minute shoppers, purchasing gifts for the cards remaining on the tress; our youth volunteers, sorting the gifts according to the organizations; and of course, the parish staff of Fran, Kathy and Lenny, patiently answering gift questions, posting information in the church bulletins and helping arrange the gifts in the Flicker room. Everyone's generosity and cooperation make this a wonderful seasonal success.

Until next year.....enjoy a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Contact: Lynn & Vivian Swank: 399-4903; lyvian@aol.com

Ladies Auxiliary-Knights of Columbus

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus Council #10013 continues to meet the first Tuesday of the month at 7 PM in room 4. We are a service organization in support of Council 10013, "Helping Knights Help Others," and a fellowship of ladies supporting each other and our parish.

We have developed a warm fellowship among the woman. Our meetings start with a Bible study of the upcoming Sunday's gospel with reading of the scripture, a reflection and then sharing questions. After the business part of our meeting, we have coffee/tea and snacks prepared by members. When the Knights are finished with their meeting they join us for refreshments.

During the month of December we collected gifts for a needy family from Catholic Charities. On December 16 we joined the Knights at the Glendale Home for its annual Christmas Caroling and passing out of cards, refreshments, and gifts.

When Lent starts we will be helping the Knights with their Friday Fish Dinners. The Fish Dinners have grown over the years and it is a wonderful opportunity to visit with parish members and visitors, and all monies made are donated to charity.

Contacts: Geraldine Havasy 406-5675 or Diana Byron 346-8954.

Adult Faith Enrichment

In early November, we concluded Fr. Robert Baron's series "Catholicism: The New Evangelization." Between 25 and 30 people attended representing 4 different parishes. The 6-week series was very informative and successful.

In November, December, and early January, we continued our popular small faith-sharing group sessions titled "Faith: Walking the Talk." Facilitated by Ms. Dona Fragnoli and held one Thursday each month, these sessions consist of simple, yet very effective discussions and reflections based on the weekly Gospel readings and are designed to help participants extend their faith formation beyond the Church walls and into their daily lives. Participation in this program has steadily increased

On December 11th, we hosted Peter Avvento who presented "Mary: The First Disciple." As with every other talk Peter has done here at Immaculate Conception, weather was an issue, but we did have around 12 people brave the elements to hear his talk. They were not disappointed. On January 15, Peter returned for a presentation titled "Angels Among Us: Do they make sense? Do we need them?"

Peter brings a unique energy and passion to his talks.

In the next three months, we will be continuing our small faith sharing group "Faith: Walking the Talk" with sessions scheduled for Feb 5th, March 5th and April 9th. In addition, on February 3rd, Fran Rossi-Szpylczn will be hosting an "Evening of Prayer."

Our Lenten series offering will bring back, by popular demand, Fr. Pat Butler from St. Edward's Parish. Fr. Pat will be presenting a 5-week series titled, "Premeditated Mercy: A Spirituality of Reconciliation." While the word "premeditated" is normally linked with murder, premeditated mercy is the opposite of premeditated murder. It implies a deliberate, thoughtful and willful act to give life, to forgive, to be reconciled, and to live at peace with others, even those who have betrayed us, abandoned us or threatened us. Although not a new concept, Fr. Pat will bring a unique newness to the concept. This series will be held on Wednesday evenings during Lent starting with the first Wednesday after Ash Wednesday (Feb 25th) and continuing to the Wednesday prior to Holy Week (March 25th). For this series, we will be in the IC Parish Center Hall.

Contact: Kim Klementowski: 384-2234; Kdklem2@gmail.com

Ministry Updates-cont.

Faith Formation

October was a very busy month with fire drills, and Safe Environment Training for every child in the program. Also in October, 61 children preparing for their First Eucharist in the spring, planted their tulip bulbs in the courtyard of the Parish Center. The children know that when they were baptized, God placed seeds of holiness in their hearts, and through the light of God, prayer and good deeds, they will grow to be good and holy people. When they put the tulips in the ground, they pray: *“Beloved Jesus, as we prepare for the wonderful sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist, we pray that you will watch over us, as we grow in our faith. Please be with us throughout the cold winter months. Protect us and these fragile tulip bulbs that we plant today, so that in the spring we will both shine in the light of your love. Amen.”* At the Children’s Mass, Julia Paolino, proclaimed the second reading and Jordan Manocchi and Colin Bachert were named “Students of the Month.”



In November, all of the students in the sixth grade were invited to attend a program designed for them called, “Praying in Color.” The evening began with prayer, dinner, a guided meditation and the program. “Praying in Color” is designed to help the children express their thoughts and feelings to God without having to look for the right words to say. It was a wonderful evening and the catechists enjoyed it as much as the students. At the Children’s Mass, the “Student of the Month” awards for November were given to Rhianna Lara and Zachery Kenney. The second reading was proclaimed by Nicholas Vautrin, and our student cantors were Rhiana Lara and Aiden Knapik. We are extremely proud of these faith-filled children.

The 5th Grade Bake Sale was a huge success due to the incredible generosity of the families in our program. This year we asked all of the grades 3 through 6 to decide on a theme basket for their class, and to donate it to the Bake Sale Raffle. What they came up with was amazing. Some of the classes had two raffle baskets to donate, and, many families brought wonderful baked goods to sell. The morning was busy, fun and a wonderful way to spend some time after Mass. At the end of the day we were able to give a check for \$1,024.00 to the St Vincent De Paul Society and outstanding raffle baskets to 17 lucky winners.

In the month of December we celebrated the Children’s Advent liturgy, and brought to the altar Christmas stockings filled with gifts for our parishioners who are home bound or in the Glendale Home. Rachel Winters, the Pastoral Care Associate had given us the names of people that she cares for, and we assigned each person to a class which filled the stocking with recommended gifts for their “Stocking Sweetie,” including also a framed picture of the children and cards. Rachel and her elves delivered the stockings before Christmas Day. On December 15, Mrs. LoBaido’s sixth grade class went to Glendale Home to sing Christmas Carols and spend time with the residents enjoying conversation and cookies. Rehearsals and the final preparations for the Christmas Eve Family Mass were also held.

Our Catechists are looking forward to all of the new and exciting ways we can bring God’s love to the children in our parish family in 2015.

Contact: Madeline Fretto: 399-9210; Cic4kids@nycap.rr.com

Respect Life Ministry*

Our parish participates in the 40 Days for Life campaign. Sometimes we can feel discouraged, but are continually being reminded about the direct effect of our presence when people return months/years later and thank us for being there at the gate to help them choose life, when we don't realize it. Sometimes they will show a picture or have the child right there with them.

In addition, the prayer presence outside Planned Parenthood can be multiplied — influencing the community...and saving babies.

Two volunteers were praying at the vigil when a woman came up to tell how she personally had convinced

three young women to change their minds about abortion – and one of them is having twins. When she talked to the young women, she told them about “those people who are praying by Planned Parenthood” – people who were praying for these women and their babies.

On another occasion, a 40 Days for Life volunteer overheard an animated conversation about abortion ... about a block down the street from the vigil site. One of the women involved in the discussion was telling the others that abortion is evil, **“and that’s why people are out there praying.”**

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

*Article reprinted from National 40 Days for Life and LifeNews.com websites.

Ministry Updates-cont.

Rosary Society

Ladies of the Rosary Altar Society will be having their annual TAG SALE May 15 & 16, 2015 in the Father Chamberlain Hall. Proceeds from the sale are donated to local charities.



Collection of all re-sellable items will start on March 2nd. Clothing that is gently worn, small furniture pieces, kitchen items, bric-a-brac, bedding, toys, books etc. will be accepted. Items we are NOT able to accept are TV's, computers and computer-related items, large appliances, shoes, or home made DVD's and videos. Please watch the bulletin for more information regarding time and dates for drop off and contact person.

Contact: Carol Baumgartner: 882-6494; cabtcb@hotmail.com.

St. Vincent DePaul Society

—A thank you from Joe Aglio

A special thank you goes you to all of our fellow parishioners for their support during the Thanksgiving and Christmas season. This generous financial and food help enabled our organization to provide food baskets to 80 less-fortunate families at Thanksgiving and food baskets and gifts to 125 families for Christmas.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank all those who gave of their time to help our members complete this enormous undertaking. An extra-special thanks to the youth groups of our parish, Our Lady of Grace, and St. Joseph parishes as well as the BH-BL High school Key Club. What a great bunch of "no nonsense," hard-working young men and women. They were the best!

The work of the Society continues throughout the year. Your continuing support is much appreciated.

Altar Servers

We are blessed to now have 42 altar servers in our ministry.

Why did they become servers?

- Sophia said that she wanted to become more involved in the church community and liked working with Fr. Jerry at Mass.
- Drew wanted to help Fr. Jerry and he enjoys helping and teaching the younger servers.
- Bella was nervous about becoming a server, but she likes that she is now helping the church and serving God.
- Laci knew that the church was family to her and serving has made her a better Catholic. She tries to make a good impression on other children by being on the altar and assisting Fr. Jerry.
- Michael enjoys the ministry of altar server because you never know what Fr. Jerry will do and you have to really pay attention. He also realizes that he is able to assist in activities that only a few can do.
- The Mongan boys, Patrick, Jack, and Gene, all wanted to participate more in our community and all like working with Fr. Jerry.
- Carsyn, like many other servers, enjoys having responsibilities during the Mass and the interactions with Fr. Jerry that most of us only get to see from afar.
- Melina, one of our newest servers, recognizes that Mass is more interesting now that she has many roles to perform during the liturgy.
- Sean said he wanted to have a more active role in the Mass.

We are always looking to grow this ministry. If you are interested, or need more information, please call Tom Bigos at 878-1905.



POPE FRANCIS' TWITTER PAGE

<http://www.twitter.com/Pontifex>

LORD, HELP US TO RECOGNIZE YOU IN THE SICK, POOR AND SUFFERING. (JANUARY 5)

The Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple—Painting by Brother Mickey

In past issues of the *Pipeline*, I have spoken about the Marian images hanging in our church.

Today I am writing about the fourth canvas of Mary, painted by Brother Mickey McGrath OSFS, located on the south side of our church. All four hangings have reference to Jesus and his Mother; this one is entitled “*Son of Mary.*” Each image was consciously selected for our parish, as Immaculate Conception is named in honor of Mary, Mother of God. This particular image is taken from the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke: *The Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple*. It is the fourth joyful mystery of the rosary.

During Jesus’ time, presenting a newborn in the temple was a joyous and proud occasion - and a strong foundational element of the Jewish religion in first century Palestine. Not only was it the “official” unveiling of the child, it was also a time when the mother of a newborn was allowed entry into public life. This was a joyful day. Or was it?

The painting shows Mary, obviously very much a Jewish woman of her time. But, what should be a joyous encounter actually looks painful and sad. We see tears streaming down the face of this new mother. Mary meets old, weary and prophetic Simeon in the temple. Simeon, a man of profound faith, has waited for the arrival of this newborn for decades. Not just any newborn, but the Messiah, the One who was spoken of by the prophets over the centuries. This was the Son of God; this child was Emmanuel, “*God with us.*” Without an introduction, Simeon knows Jesus is the ONE.

He also knows what is in store for this unblemished **lamb, and that his death would be by humiliation on the cross.** Simeon knew that this babe was the Savior who would die for the sins of the entire world, for our individual sins. Simeon knew the child was God’s gift to the world: his only Son.



One can only imagine this temple icon making his way to mother and child. Simeon inches closer. Mary’s eyes lock with his. Then Simeon releases what he has known for so long, looking deeply into Mary’s eyes as he states; “*This child of yours is destined to be the downfall of many in Israel, a sign that will be opposed, and you yourself shall be pierced with a sword, so that the thoughts of many hearts may be laid bare.*” (Luke 2:33) Mary must have been speechless. “How does he know?” she must have thought. It is no wonder Mary cried; suffering and death were on the horizon. Yet she and her husband Joseph were in this together, and both their hearts agreed: “God’s will be done.” And it came to pass. Simeon’s words were fulfilled. The sword above the child’s head, dripping with drops of blood depicts the prophecy of Simeon.

Mary’s tears may remind us of our own tears. Those who have loved deeply know the pain of loss, separation, suffering, and death. It is all part of life. Mary realizes this, and not only accepts it, but embraces it. She has given her “**yes**” to the angel Gabriel: “***I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say.***” Mary hands over her son, her own life, with the certainty that the Creator, the source of all life will be with her on her journey and the journey of her son. Through her fear, she remains trusting and full of faith. What a profound reminder for us!

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!

Image courtesy of Bro. Michael O’Neill McGrath OSFS and

Bee Still Studio. All rights reserved.

Ed Culhane’s Irish Soda Bread (with “adult content”)

1. Mix together dry ingredients: 2 cups flour, 3 Tbsp. sugar, 1/2 tsp. salt, 1 1/2 tsp. baking powder, 3/4 tsp baking soda, 1/2 cup raisins, and 3 tsp. caraway seeds
2. Cut in 6 Tbsp. butter or margarine.
3. Add 1/2 cup buttermilk.
4. Add 1/4 cup Irish whiskey or Scotch.
5. Mix and knead briefly; make into a round shape. Cut a cross on the top, brush with melted butter, and sprinkle with sugar.
6. Place in a round single layer cake pan which has been treated with equal parts flour, margarine and vegetable oil mixed into a thin paste.
7. Bake at 350 degrees for about 35 minutes. Test for doneness with a toothpick.

A Tanzania Diary, Part 2 by Georgina Holm



For about three weeks in July, we traveled to Tanzania to join in celebrations with Father Alexander Choka and Father Laurenti Magesa and to visit the charities that the Friends of Musoma have been supporting. Besides supporting the education of a number of students, Friends of Musoma (FOM) has given a small annual cash donation to eight other charitable organizations located in the Musoma diocese. We were able to visit the school where most of our sponsored children are located (Milenia Ya Tatu Primary School in Masonga) and six of these other charities. Because of generous donations from persons aware of the current drought situation and accompanying hunger, we were able to make an increased monetary donation to each organization this year, and we also brought donated clothing, baby blankets, and other supplies. These visits were the most memorable moments of our journey where we met many beautiful children and dedicated nuns and lay people.

Our first charity-related visit was to the Baraki Health Center, about a two-hour journey, a major part of which was over rutted, dirt roads. The only traffic jams we encountered were those created by herds of cows, goats, and sheep. This visit was our first clue as to the difficulty Gina experiences each trip just getting to places FOM supports. Early on in its establishment FOM was responsible for building a malaria laboratory at the Baraki Health Center (thanks mainly to fundraising efforts spearheaded by the Fragnoli family of our parish) complete with a microscope and refrigerator that allows for storage of blood. Most recently FOM funded the installation of solar panels that keeps the refrigerator running and supplies lighting for the nighttime delivery of babies during power outages, which can be frequent. The day of our visit was quite busy. A baby boy had been born shortly before our arrival, two women were in labor, several children were being treated for either diarrhea or malaria, and one small baby was receiving a blood transfusion for malaria. Gina explained that before there was a refrigerator on site which allows blood to be supplied to Baraki from Mwanza, blood had to be secured from locals on an as-needed basis. Consequently, for the eight years during which Father Choka was serving in Baraki, he would often get calls in the wee hours of the morning seeking him as a donor for emergency malaria transfusions. It was wonderful to see in person the changes that had been made to the Health Center that I had heard about since becoming an FOM board member; however, it was sad to see the sick children and their very young mothers and to compare the health facilities of a third-world country to those of our own. So much more is needed. While there, the nuns mentioned their hope to establish a surgical suite at the Baraki Health Center so

patients requiring surgery don't have to be transported over very poor roads to Mwanza about 80 miles away. Besides touring the Health Center, FOM made a monetary donation and donated baby blankets that had been collected by Angie. Before leaving Baraki, we also donated money, shoes, books, and a soccer ball to nearby St. Consolata Primary School.

Two days later, which was the last day we had with Angie and Josh before they headed back to Mwanza, we traveled about another two hours, again over bumpy, dirt roads to Masonga to Milenia Ya Tatu Primary School where the majority of the 25 students sponsored by FOM are located. After touring the facility, many of us got to meet for the very first time the students we were personally sponsoring, which was quite a thrill to us. We took many pictures (the kids just love seeing themselves in the photos), and we got to throw a brand new soccer ball into a cow field where students were playing with a rather deflated-looking old ball. They did not miss a step in their game while shouting out thanks to us. While we were there, we paid the tuition and initial set-up expenses for a student who was moving on to a different high school. This student's new tuition situation had just been made known to us a couple days prior to our visit to Masonga - just another example of the difficulties Gina can face when she makes these trips to Tanzania. We also made a donation to help pay for toiletries and other daily use items for the sponsored children. We were happy to find that most of the children were doing quite well. Two siblings who are orphans and have been struggling at school have now been taken on as boarders along with their younger sister thanks to the generosity of a new sponsor. Additionally, we made a monetary donation to St. Mary's Health Center, which is just up the road from the school.

The next day we finished our visits to charities by making stops at Community Alive, located right in the diocese cathedral compound, Jipe Moyo, and St. Justin's Carecenter for Disabled Children, both in Musoma a short distance away from the cathedral. Community Alive serves 200 children with HIV/AIDS providing them with counseling services, periodic meals, and payment of some school expenses and secondary school tuitions. Currently, two secondary school students in the program have the goal of becoming doctors, and one graduate of the program has established his own tourism and business training school and has taken on two Community Alive clients to train. We happily saw the results of a new undertaking by Community Alive, which has had some of its clients trained by small industries to make brightly colored bracelets of beads of rolled colored paper and to also make beautiful batik fabric. Eric bore patiently with us women and our love for jewelry as we bought out the entire stock of bracelets and even a few pieces of material, after doing some haggling over prices, which is expected when shopping in Africa. This fun visit was tempered somewhat by the sad news that an organization in the Netherlands from which Community Alive receives most of its funding will be removing funding from Community Alive as it switches its emphasis to stopping the illicit trafficking of children. When we heard this news we felt almost embarrassed by our small \$500 donation to Community Alive in comparison to its total operating costs. But typical of the gracious, positive African spirit, the Community Alive representative we met with responded, "Half a loaf is better than none."

After lunch at the rectory, we visited Jipe Moyo, which means “Take Heart.” This charity was established by Sr. Cha Cha, who came to visit our parish when she was in Buffalo, NY. The two sisters and six employees of Jipe Moyo serve homeless boys and girls whom they go out on the street to find. Currently, they serve 17 girls and 13 boys, most of whom are orphans who have run away from abusive situations. Many are ill when they arrive. Jipe Moyo gets them the medical care they need; provides counseling, shelter, and food; and sends the children to public schools, purchasing books and uniforms for them. The dormitories and lavatory facilities for the girls looked fairly new, with brightly painted rooms and only 3-4 bunk beds per room. There is also a new, large dining area presently not in use because it does not have furniture. We met the children, who once again loved having their pictures taken and were thrilled to receive a new soccer ball and a new American football. They had to be taught how to throw the football by Gina, Eric, and Sr. Cha Cha. One very little boy demonstrated how to use his homemade pull toy made from sticks, a plastic container, and a straw that made a clicking noise when pulled. Sr. Cha Cha expressed great appreciation for the donations of money and clothing from FOM. The majority of the monetary donation came from the Durans of our parish, who requested that FOM direct their contribution to Jipe Moyo. Sr. Cha Cha spoke of how generous the Durans have been to Jipe Moyo. She also questioned whether we knew of any young adults who would be willing to volunteer there during their college breaks. Recently two young women from the University of Buffalo volunteered for four months at Jipe Moyo, teaching English and math to the students. Sr. Cha Cha was astonished at how well the students and young women bonded together despite neither group speaking the other’s language.

Following our visit to Jipe Moyo, we drove a short distance to St. Justin’s Carecenter for Disabled Children where 140 children (up from 100 the previous year) with physical, intellectual, and/or hearing disabilities are housed, fed, and sent to government schools where they can receive special education services not provided in private schools. Father Choka has a particularly tender spot for the children at St. Justin’s because of their disabilities. He explained to us how important physical activity is for these children, as it makes them more able to concentrate afterwards. In fact, we learned that five of St. Justin’s children had recently run track in the Dar es Salaam Special Olympics, and one will be running in the upcoming Special Olympics in the U.S. Although the children everywhere we went were happy to meet us, the excitement and joy generated by our visit at St. Justin’s exceeded all the other visits. When we arrived, each student came over and shook each of our hands. Some greeted us with the words “good afternoon” spoken in perfect English. Others gave us the traditional Kiswahili greeting given to elders to show respect, “shikamoo,” or “I kiss your feet.” One little deaf boy was so happy to have us visiting that he ran up to us and launched himself into our arms several times during the visit. Some of the children performed the Tanzanian national anthem in sign language for us, and a number of children introduced themselves to us in perfect English, including two physically disabled children with deformed feet who used large sticks to help them walk. The children were treated with a wonderful gentleness, good humor, and obvious love by the two nuns and interpreter who were working with them that day. Once again we made a donation of cash, clothing, and some toys before we left.

We met so many dedicated priests and nuns who are having a positive effect on the lives of people. They aren’t saving the nations, but no one person can. As my Muslim neighbor said to Eric and me when he heard about our trip, if everyone would do just a little, much could be accomplished.



Part 1 of Georgina’s diary which focused on visits and celebrations with Fr. Choka and Fr. Magesa as well as a safari, was published in the October, 2014, issue of the *Parish Pipeline*.

More than **200**

families had their pictures taken for our Parish Directory. Kudos to Sandy Lowe and Maria Yorkshire for their efforts.

Ask Deacon Mike



Question:

Why do Catholics have two Creeds?

Answer:

In the Catholic Mass, we have two versions of what we call our creed, or in other words, what every Catholic believes. They are called, "The Apostles' Creed" and "The Nicene Creed". So why do we have two versions?

This is a great question that must first begin with some definitions and origins of each. The word creed derives from the Latin *credo*, meaning, "I believe." The purpose of any form of the Creed is to provide a basic, concise statement of the faith. The Creeds are based on the fundamental belief in the Trinity and the "work" proper to each of the three Persons of the Trinity: The Father as creator; the Son as redeemer; and the Holy Spirit as sanctifier.

The Apostles' Creed contains all the articles in the Nicene Creed, though in a very simplified form. A legend arose in the fifth century after Christ to explain the origin of the so called Apostles' Creed. The legend says that after Pentecost, inspired by the Holy Spirit, each apostle contributed one of the 12 points of the Apostles' Creed. This pious and charming story, however, has no origin in history. The Apostles' Creed in its present version was created late in the fourth century as a statement of faith. It seems to have been mentioned by St. Ambrose around 390 AD, but the first complete written version that we have of the Apostles' Creed appeared in Latin around 710 AD. The Apostles' Creed declares belief in God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the Holy Catholic Church. As the oldest of the Catholic creeds, it was created as a way for Christians to tell others what they believed. It summarizes what the apostles taught when they went out into the world.

The Nicene Creed first came into being on the 19th of June in 325AD, when the delegates at the Council of Nicea agreed to a statement of belief about who Jesus Christ truly is. This statement expresses the core doctrine and dogmas of the Catholic, Lutheran, Anglican, and the Eastern and Oriental Orthodox churches. One tradition states that the Nicene Creed was originally formulated by Saint Athanasius.

One of the primary reasons for creating the Nicene Creed was to deal with the Arian heresy which denied that the Son was truly divine as the Father is divine. Therefore, the Nicene Creed includes phrases which emphasizes equality between the Son and the Father – "begotten not made", "true God from true God", "light from light", "one in being with the Father." The Nicene Creed, was revised and finalized at the Council of Constantinople in 381AD. Recently, the more accurate translation from the original Latin was published as part of the revision to the Sacramentary now called "The Roman Missal". It reads, "... the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father..." all indicating the oneness with the Father.

So, let's go back to the original question as to why we have two creeds. The answer to this question comes from the rich history the Catholic Church has and its need to keep this history alive in the mass, and in our lives in general. It also demonstrates how the faith was expressed first in the Apostles' Creed and then even more clearly in the Nicene Creed. Perhaps the real importance is that the faith was preserved, guarded, and handed on to the next generation. Moreover, during the time of persecution (prior to 313 AD), the Creed was not generally written — it was part of the "*disciplina arcae*", meaning it was memorized and handed on orally as a protection against paganism and heresies. In a sense, in our current age of persecution, we too should know our Creed by heart, know the faith we profess in it, and hand that faith on to the next generation.

In this fifth 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:
