

Father Jerry to Celebrate Fortieth Anniversary of His Ordination

Father Jerry has a fond memory of his uncle coming to the door of his kindergarten classroom and asking Sister Yvonne Marie to send him out so they could go on a ride with his mother and grandmother. This uncle was Father Gerard Lafleur, a priest of the diocese of Springfield, Massachusetts, who was a primary influence in our Father Jerry's life. In fact, Father Jerry was named after this uncle. Uncle Father Gerry affectionately became known as "*Gerry the Greater*," while nephew Father Jerry became "*Jerry the Lesser*." Besides this closeness, his uncle's devotion to the pastoral duties of a parish priest, and his emphasis on kindness became instrumental in Father Jerry's own pastoral life. "***Be kind, be kind, be kind***" are words Father Jerry found in notes left by his uncle when he died, and he continues to hear them in his heart to this day.

This May marks the fortieth anniversary of Father Jerry's ordination to the priesthood. He was raised in Willimansett, Massachusetts, a suburb of Chicopee, the youngest of six children in a family with French roots. Today, three of his siblings still live in Massachusetts, one lives in Virginia, and another in Florida. He was educated in Catholic schools, after which he attended a community college, and worked with a funeral director. He subsequently earned his Bachelor of Arts, and then later a Master of Arts in Psychology Theology. On May 6, 1978, after completing seminary studies at St. Anthony's on the Hudson, he was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Howard J. Hubbard at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception here in Albany.

Even as a child, the thought of becoming a priest would enter his mind periodically but then

go away. He had a friend who was in a Conventual Franciscan seminary twenty minutes from his home, and as a result, he became acquainted with friars from the order. One Sunday, after teaching a faith formation class at his parish, Father Jerry was invited to visit the seminary with the friars. That trip began a connection with that place in Granby, Massachusetts, a place that he began to visit more frequently. Eventually he decided to join the community of Conventual Franciscans.

Father Jerry's parents supported his decision, as did his uncle. According to Father Jerry, the simplicity and joy of the Conventual Franciscan friars "formed" him, and continue to influence him to this day. His choice to become a diocesan priest stemmed from his desire to live on his own instead of in the community setting of the friary. He came to Albany in 1994 to discern a change to the diocesan priesthood; he chose this diocese because of his prior ordination experience. At that point Bishop Hubbard assigned him to the Church of the Immaculate Conception under Father Connery, whom he credits with helping him adjust to a new and different way of priestly life. After that period of discernment here, he did indeed wish to become a diocesan priest. Then he became the pastor of Saint Mary's in Clinton Heights where he remained for over a decade before returning here to Immaculate in July 2007, where he was named pastor in the wake of Father Connery's retirement.



Ministry Updates

Faith Formation by Madeline Fretto and Michele DeLorenzo

Faith Formation has had a very busy and fast-paced year. Our theme for this year has been “Faith in Action,” and the children and their families have certainly taken our mission to heart. It began with all of the help from our families for the 5th grade Thanksgiving bake sale, continued in Advent with hundreds of Christmas gifts for the “Stocking Sweeties” of our parish, and concluded during the season of Lent by putting together a huge “Care Package” filled with everyday necessities for our service men and women stationed in Afghanistan. Along with all of the thoughtful donations from our children and their families, many good deeds have been done throughout the year which is very evident by the outstanding children who have been nominated for Student of the Month by their catechists.

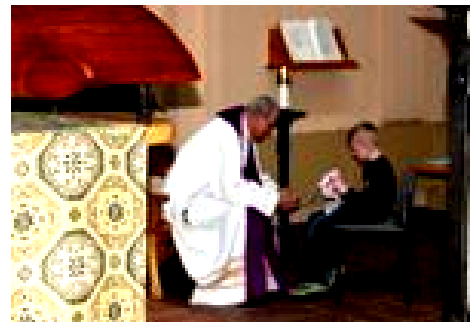
This year we have been highlighting our amazing catechists in the bulletin each week. As of this time, due to modesty, and or shyness we have not had the opportunity to introduce each catechist to our parish. But, every one of these selfless volunteers deserves to be recognized and commended.

We have four weeks left to our year and it will be chockfull of activities. Our First Eucharist Workshop will be held on April 14, the final home study evaluation will be held on April 1, and the Alleluia Mass will conclude our year at the 11 AM Mass on April 29 when the children will close out the Mass singing our theme song for the year, “Fill the World with Love.”

The First Communion rehearsal will be held on Wednesday, May 2, in the church from 4 to 5 PM and First Communion will be celebrated on Saturday, May 5, at 10:00 AM. We will end our year with the May Crowning on May 6 at the 11 AM Mass. At the conclusion of the Mass the children will be given a carnation and will process out of the church to the statue of our Blessed Mother, and adorn her with a crown of roses.

We are so grateful for the wonderful catechists,

and volunteers that work alongside us throughout the year, and to the parents who always step up to help without being asked. We are grateful to Fr. Jerry for the opportunity to bring the love of God into the lives of the children in our parish. We wish God’s blessings for a safe and fun filled summer to everyone in our Faith Formation program.



(photos of First Reconciliation, 2018)

Ministry Updates-cont.

RCIA

(just one of the many ways we grow our church)

By Kim Klementowski

At the Easter Vigil on Saturday, March 31st, 4 amazing men and woman were brought into full communion with our Catholic faith and welcomed into our community with great joy. Leanna “Kateri” Guerra, Jeffery “Michael” O’Rourke and Mark “Edward” Delnick received the sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist while Jennifer “Anne” Jada received the sacrament of Confirmation. They will continue their RCIA session right through Pentecost Sunday.

On behalf of Leanna, Jeff, Mark and Jennifer, I’d like to extend a huge “thank you” to our RCIA catechists this year: Jeanne Behr, Karen Bond, Joe Bucci, Sean Caron, Fr. Jerry, Mike and Maria Groves, Gerry & Jerry Havasy, Paul & Carole Heckman, Nancy Lethbridge, Hank & Joyce Maddelone, Deacon Mike, Karen Ronca, Suzi Tremblay and David Wetzel. Your dedication to this ministry and the affect that you have on our candidates is immeasurable. Thank you!!

We’d also like to give a special shout out to Suzi Tremblay for providing the refreshments after Saturday morning prayer and after the Easter Vigil and to Karen Bond for her help with the reception as well. Thank you!!

Many of you may not know what RCIA is exactly and I’m sure many of you know someone (family member, friend, spouse, co-worker, etc) who may be interested and may benefit by the process. RCIA stands for the



Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. It’s not a program; it’s a process. A program has a definite start and a definite end. RCIA is an on-going faith journey...it’s intended to assist adults who are seeking full communion with the Catholic Church through the sacraments of initiation which are Baptism, First Eucharist and Confirmation. There isn’t any age limit.

So if you’ve never been baptized or if you were baptized in another Christian faith, this process is for you. If you were baptized Catholic but have never received the sacraments of First Eucharist and/or Confirmation, this process is for you as well. If you’ve received all of your sacraments but have been away from the Catholic Church for a number of years, we can help you too.

If you, or someone you know, have a desire to learn more about coming into full communion with the Catholic Church, we encourage you to talk to either Fr. Jerry, Mike and Maria Groves, 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: Klementowski: 518-384-2234; kdklem2@gmail.com

Ministry Updates-cont.

Respect for Life Ministry by Larry Smith

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

A Successful Spring 2018 40 Days for Life Campaign in Schenectady

During Lent this world-wide program of prayer, fasting and community outreach to end abortion returned to Schenectady. We encounter those considering abortion as their choice of an unwanted pregnancy. Yes, lives have been saved right here in Schenectady thanks in part to participation by our parishioners. Since 2007, 14,616 lives (that we know of) have been saved around the world as a result of these campaigns. These are the fruits of this labor. See <https://40daysforlife.com/schenectady> for more information on this program.

The Parish Spiritual Adoption Program

Watch for the 2018-2019 return of the nine month "Spiritual Adoption" program. This program encourages parishioners to sign up to pray for an unborn child in danger of abortion that they can name:

Prayer for the Unborn Child by Bishop Fulton J. Sheen

*Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much.
I beg you to spare the life of the unborn child,
whom I have spiritually adopted, who is in danger of
abortion.*

During this time we will have monthly bulletin announcements to inform us on these babies' development from conception to birth.

See <http://www.spiritualadoption.org/> for more information on this program.

Join this Ministry

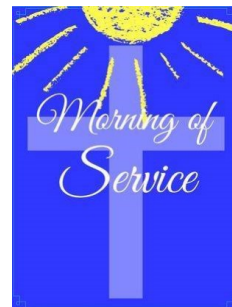
Please consider joining us at our Respect Life Ministry meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Watch the bulletin for meeting announcements.

Contact: Larry Smith: 518-384-0882; LPJTSmith6@msn.com

Help Wanted

2018 Morning of Service

Needs YOU



We need your help to plan the 3rd Parish Morning of Service, tentatively scheduled for November 3, 2018. There are volunteer opportunities in several areas such as:

- signups,
- supplies, and
- evaluations.

We invite you to join the planning team.



If interested, please email Jean and MaryAnn at ICService-Chair@gmail.com



Photos from Morning of Service 2017

Ministry Updates-cont.

Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist to the Residents at Baptist Health and Rehabilitation Center by Diane Bigos

I want to tell you about one of the ministries at our parish that I am involved in. I volunteer at Baptist Health & Rehab Center in Scotia. I am one of the Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist who bring communion and pray with the Catholic residents there. I have been a part of this ministry for 9 years starting the month after I retired as parish secretary at IC. As secretary, I saw a need to bring Jesus to the sick and dying. I would bring communion to our homebound and dying parishioners. Now that I am retired, I have the time to visit the men and women who love God, want to worship Him, but are unable to get to church. I knew that if I was unable to get to church due to age or illness, I would want someone to bring communion to me. The Eucharist is the *The Bread of Life!* In the song *We Are Called* by David Hass, we sing, "We are called to act with justice, to *love tenderly*, to *serve* one another and walk humbly with God." In the 2nd verse, it says we are to open our hearts and show mercy to all those in need. I have been called by God to bring His love, healing, and peace through the Eucharist to the elderly who live at Baptist. Answering that call has been a blessing for me. When I visit a person, I ask them if they would like to receive communion. When they say "Yes," we begin with the Sign of the Cross, say the "Our Father," and we recite "Lord, I am not worthy to receive you." I give them communion, I lay my hands on their head and shoulder and pray a blessing and healing prayer over the person. Since I love to sing, I sing one of our church songs to them such as *Here I Am Lord* or *Amazing Grace*, whatever comes to mind, before ending with the "Glory Be." As I pray with them, I can feel God's love ministering to them through me. It is a sacred moment. I would like to share some experiences I have had over the years.

There was a 92 year old man by the name of Stanley, whose memory was failing. I would come into his room, ask him if he wanted communion. He might not remember me from week to week; but as I began to make the Sign of the Cross on his forehead and recite the "Our Father," Stanley would join me in prayer. After giving him communion, I would place my hand on his shoulder or head and say a simple healing prayer, and then I would sing him a song like *Amazing Grace* or *How Great Thou Art*. I do the same thing with every Catholic person I visit and end with the "Glory Be ..." Stanley would comment how wonderful he felt after receiving Jesus and how he never felt that way before. *Jesus touched him!*

Then there was my friend, Ann, who had been a member of our Afterglow of the Eucharist Ministry at IC. She was a lovely woman with deep faith. Ann liked to knit. I told her how I had been trying to make a prayer shawl and how much difficulty I was having. I was hoping she would help me correct my mistakes and guide me so I could make the shawl myself. Instead, Ann offered to knit it for me. I surrendered it over to her and she completed it within a month. Ann received so many compliments on how beautiful the

shawl was as she worked on it. Seven months later, Ann died - on my birthday. Every time I wear the shawl, I feel her love and prayers, and I pray for her.

On 1 floor I visit, some of the residents are sitting in front of the nurses' station watching TV. I go to each person on my list from the chaplain, offer them communion, pray and sing to them. Other residents who are not Catholic ask me to visit, pray and sing with them as well. One day the head nurse told me: "Hurry up and sing. It hasn't been a good morning and they calm down after you sing to them."

Some of the people who are on the list may say they are Catholic but have not practiced their faith in a very long time. I still visit with them. You just don't know how God wants to work in their lives. One gentleman knew he couldn't receive communion because he hadn't been to confession in years. He wanted to learn to say the Rosary. I prayed the Rosary with him, gave him a Rosary pamphlet with the prayers so he could say it on his own. During the 3 years I visited him, we became friends. At the end of his life, he might not have remembered me, but he did remember the woman who prayed with him. I have been visiting a woman who has been away from the church for many years and could not receive communion. One day she asked me what she had to do to come back to the faith and receive communion. I told her to contact Chaplain Mark. He contacted Fr. Russo, who heard her confession, and now she is attending the monthly mass and receiving communion every week.

Recently, I went to the funeral home to say "goodbye" to a lovely lady named Isabel. She was a sweet woman and a pleasure to visit. As I would say "Goodbye" to her, she would say "Come back again any time!" I wanted to ask God to welcome her home. This is a ministry in which I know I am making a difference in the lives of the elderly people I meet. This is evident by the smiles and thank yous I receive. I believe this is a very important healing ministry. Please consider joining our ministry.

The Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist from Immaculate Conception bring communion 3 Wednesday mornings every month after the 9 AM mass. Mass is celebrated by Fr. Russo, pastor of St. Joseph's, Scotia, on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. We are looking for people to join this ministry. Do you home school your children? A mother and her teenaged daughter are a part of our ministry. We are in need of 3 people to help us cover all the floors at the Baptist Health & Rehab Center. You can shadow us a few times before you make a commitment. Rachel Winters, Pastoral Care Coordinator, would be happy to set up a training for you to become an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist. If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering, please contact Rachel Winters @ 518-399-9168 or Diane Bigos @ 518-810-1310.

Spotlight on Bob and Anne LaBounty by Annette Botsford

In this *Pipeline* series, we hope to familiarize parishioners with those among us whom we see often but know little about. Readers are invited to contact Annette Botsford at abotsfor@nycap.rr.com with suggestions of future subjects for this feature.

There are many people we see at Mass daily and on the weekends who are part of the many ministries at Immaculate Conception. Some work behind the scenes and others are quite visible.

Meet Bob and Anne LaBounty who are most often in attendance at the 5 PM Mass and serve as Eucharistic Ministers. They both serve as acolytes at the 9:00 AM Mass on Wednesdays. An acolyte is a person assisting the celebrant in a religious service or procession.

Bob and Anne are active members of the local Cursillo program, which meets in the church library each month. Bob serves as Treasurer for the Albany Diocese Chapter. They keep busy with this group attending seminars, workshops and social events, and Anne will be part of the team presenting the Women's Cursillo weekend this year. Bob and Anne are both involved in the Adult Faith Enrichment Program and also help with the Healing Mass held twice a year in the spring and the fall.

Anne volunteers for the Pastoral Care Dept. at Ellis Hospital bringing communion to 4 floors in the A wing on Wednesdays. On Thursdays, she is at the Glendale Nursing Home helping to set up for mass, doing readings and distributing



communion. She also brings communion there once a month on Tuesdays and will fill in on Sundays when needed. In 2015, Anne was selected as Glendale Volunteer of the Year. Anne also volunteers with the Parish Nurse Ministry.

Bob is also busy volunteering. He is one of the people who counts the proceeds from the church collections. As a volunteer in the REC (Residents Encounter Christ) program, this prison ministry takes him to Watertown, NY.

He originally traveled to Mt. McGregor until its closure as a prison. A group of people from the area go to Watertown and are hoping to get the local people there involved. Bob finds this ministry very satisfying. The men are polite, congenial and receptive to hearing about Christ. He will be taking part in a REC weekend at the beginning of May. Bob is treasurer of the local St. Vincent DePaul Society. This group helps people in need from Scotia to Saratoga.

Bob is from Chazy in upstate New York. He is a Union College graduate with an Electrical Engineering Degree. He served in the Air Force and there he earned a Master's Degree in Astronautics and his professional engineering license.

See LaBounty, page 7

LaBounty, continued from page 6

He was involved with the General Electric Apollo Systems Division in Daytona Beach, Florida working on Lunar Exploration. Bob then spent the rest of his career at the Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory as Manager of various electrical design groups.

Anne is from Gouverneur, NY. She graduated from Ellis Hospital School of Nursing and is a registered nurse. Anne worked for Dr. Wiess, a General Practitioner, in Glenville for 12 years and later for Dr. Schwenk, an OB-GYN in Schenectady.

It was at a Newman Club meeting between Union and Ellis that Bob and Anne met each other. They moved several times in their early married life; first with the Air Force and then with GE before settling in this area and becoming members of Immaculate Conception in 1973. Bob served on the Parish Council and as Parish Council President with Father Connery.

Bob and Anne are parents of two adult children. Their daughter lives in Clifton Park and has two grown children, a son and a daughter. Their son lives in Ballston Spa and has a daughter in high school. Through the years, they have enjoyed attending lacrosse and baseball games, dance recitals and concerts. In their free time, they like to go for walks and work in their garden. They will celebrate their 55th anniversary in September.

Bob and Anne are both very devoted to this parish. We are blessed to have such a devoted couple who give generously of their time and talent.


Fr. Jerry, continued from page 1

Father Jerry enjoys what he does because of the variety and challenge each day brings. Every morning he walks with his dog Grace at 6:30AM. Between the mass schedule, funerals, appointments, writing the bulletin letter as well as his homilies, attending meetings, stopping by faith formation classes, and visiting parishioners who are homebound, or in nursing homes and hospitals, his pastoral duties are 24-7. Beyond that, he has to be ready to alter plans on short notice when emergencies and pastoral needs require such. His favorite task is preparing for and celebrating the Eucharist. Father Jerry also feels a special affinity to spending time with people whose sickness is bringing them closer to death and the journey home to God, including ministering to those families who watch that journey unfold. For relaxation, he likes to garden, and he has always had an eye for nice cars.

Father Jerry sees a role for our church in the larger community. This is why he was happy to accommodate the Board of Elections when they sought the location for a polling place. Another element is that our beautiful and large church is the ideal venue for gatherings such as the musical performances that have been performed here by Auriel Camerata, and the Burnt Hills Oratorio. He sees this as another way of reflecting God's glory. On extremely cold days, Father Jerry makes sure that the church door is open for anyone who needs to come in from the cold. His vision for the parish includes an addition between the Flicker Room and the Hall so that a passageway can be enclosed. This will make for a space more easily traversed, shortening the walk to the kitchen and bathrooms, important for those who serve, and for those who are infirm. He is also deeply aware of the spiritual life of the parish, how prayer, worship, and charity through Christ are the focus of who we are as church at all times. Although it is in the future, he does occasionally think about what life will be like when he retires, and assumes a less rigorous schedule.

To a young person considering a religious life, Father Jerry would advise them to learn about the challenges of the religious life. This includes coming to know themselves and to learn about some of the challenges of vowed or ordained life. He also encourages them to remember that in religious life they will indeed be loved, but not always. Above all, he says that they would do well to remember his uncle's words and to always remember to **"be kind, be kind, and be kind."** He also thinks of Jesus calling us to humility as he was, and Pope Francis' call to the same simple life. Therefore he hopes that as he leads us, it is not as a superior, but rather as a first among equals, guiding the parish, but also one who must like all of us, be led by the Holy Spirit. Uncle Father Gerry the Greater would be proud!

**Poems about Spring by Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-1889)
Jesuit Priest and English Poet**

Spring

*Nothing is so beautiful as Spring –
 When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and
 lush;
 Thrush's eggs look little low heavens, and thrush
 Through the echoing timber does so rinse and
 wring
 The ear, it strikes like lightnings to hear him sing;
 The glassy peartree leaves and blooms, they brush
 The descending blue; that blue is all in a rush
 With richness; the racing lambs too have fair their
 fling.*

*What is all this juice and all this joy?
 A strain of the earth's sweet being in the begin-
 ning
 In Eden garden. – Have, get, before it cloy,
 Before it cloud, Christ, lord, and sour with sin-
 ning,
 Innocent mind and Mayday in girl and boy,
 Most, O maid's child, thy choice and worthy the
 winning.*

Pied Beauty

*Glory be to God for dappled things –
 For skies of couple-colour as a brinded cow;
 For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that
 swim;
 Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings;
 Landscape plotted and pieced – fold, fallow, and
 plough;
 And áll trádes, their gear and tackle and trim.*

*All things counter, original, spare, strange;
 Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)
 With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;
 He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change:
 Praise him.*

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

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

Name _____ Phone # _____

I am interested in the following ministry/ministries:

July 14-15:
Distribution of the next
issue of the Pipeline

July 2: Submissions due