



My Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic: How I Was Served While Serving

By C.

On May 23rd, 2016, I embarked, along with eleven other individuals, on a twelve-day mission trip to the Dominican Republic with the intent to help with the construction of a chapel in the rural Catholic community of Los Calabazos. The preparation for this mission began long before I stepped foot on Dominican soil, back in January when our team, all members of SUNY New Paltz Catholic Campus Ministry, combined efforts to raise what would end up being over \$15,000 for the project. The majority of these funds were donated by parishes, friends, and family, including a generous donation from my home parish of the Church of the Immaculate Conception. Our chapel would be the 3rd of its kind built in the area, one of several service projects completed by past mission teams from Catholic Campus Ministry, members of which have been taking part in annual mission trips since 2007. These chapels have served as vital places of worship and community solidarity in areas consumed by poverty.

Upon arriving in the Dominican Republic, our daily routine of work and worship quickly took shape. Every morning we would travel 25 minutes in the bed of a pick-up truck up to the worksite in Los Calabazos, which is nestled in a picturesque mountain side in the heart of the community. The foundation for the chapel had been laid a few months prior to our arrival, leaving us to don our work gloves and set about erecting the walls. Most of our work involved transporting materials such as rocks, sand, cement, and wood down to the hired contractors, being that the location of the site didn't allow for truck access. We would work until the afternoon, and then travel back to our home in Jarabacoa for the rest of the day. When we weren't working, we visited local children at the schools and chapels, attended masses conducted in Spanish, and bonded with one another over fellowship (and the amazing Dominican cuisine). By the end of the trip, the chapel had the majority of its four walls and will be continuously worked on in our absence until its

completion. A dedication mass is already anticipated for next summer, where it will officially be named after St. Maria Goretti.

Throughout the trip, we were fortunate enough to encounter Christ through the generosity and kindness of so many beautiful people. The Catholic community in Jarabacoa is incredibly rich and penetrates every aspect of day to day living, and although we were constantly being thanked for our service we felt that we were being served in an equally important way by being allowed to experience a setting where our faith could thrive. As a testament to the strength of their Catholic community, we often had to scour the aisles for seats at mass because attendance was so high, and walked shoulder to shoulder for over two hours with

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Ministry Updates

The Funeral Reception Committee—*a Reflection by Norma Angelino*

When a family suffers the loss of a loved one, there are so many things that need to be done that they may feel overwhelmed. Here at Immaculate Conception, we try to help ease one of those burdens. If the Flicker room or church hall is available, the family can have a funeral breakfast or luncheon at our facility. The members of the committee will provide the beverages, desserts, and assorted add-ons. They will also set the room up with table cloths, silverware, centerpieces, buffet table, etc. The family makes arrangements with a caterer for the food. Usually the committee can provide a list of names for that service. That would be the only expense incurred by the family. I have been a member of

the committee for over 10 years. It has been a wonderful ministry for me. I have benefitted from being a recipient, twice, and a provider. From the side of someone who has suffered a loss, it was wonderful to have a place for family and friends to come after a funeral. There is never a rushed feeling, and the committee goes out of its way to make the family feel comfortable. From a member's standpoint, it is a gift to each one of us to be able to help those who are grieving and need a place to meet, eat, socialize, and reminisce. The committee consists of men and women who can be available for several hours. We set up, clean up, and help in whatever way we can. If anyone would like to join the group, you would be more than welcome.

Contact: Marge Kopchik: 399-4585; mgkop@nycap.rr.com


Knights of Columbus



Left to right:
 Mike Groves,
 Chairman
 Elvira Neumann
 Ryan Pantalone
 Mel Byron, Grand
 Knight
 Rev. Jerry Gingras,
 Chaplain

The Glenville Knights of Columbus, Council 10013, is proud to announce **Ryan Pantalone** as the recipient of the **\$2,000 Clarence "Fritz" Neumann College Tuition Assistance Award** for 2016. **Ryan** is a Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake High School student, with a GPA of **95.5**. He is a member of Immaculate Conception Parish. **Ryan** is planning to attend college and pursue a degree in Civil Engineering. Mrs. Elvira Neumann presented the award to **Ryan** at the Glenville Council 10013 annual family picnic. This is the 10th \$2,000 scholarship awarded to a student who has shown outstanding community and parish public service while maintaining good grades through high school.

Contact: Jerry Havasy: 406-5675; gfhavasy@yahoo.com



Faith Formation and Youth Ministry Sign Ups

September 11th 9am – 1pm and September 12th 9am – 7pm

For returning and new families with children in Grades K – 12. New families are asked to contact the Faith Formation Office (399-9210 for K – 6) or Youth Ministries Office (399-9203 7 -12) prior to sign ups.

Ministry Updates-cont.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) by Kim Klementowski

This past Easter, 7 amazing men and woman were brought into full communion with our Catholic Faith. Our two young women, Cindy Carter and April Nedwell, were baptized at our Easter Vigil. Then they, along with four of our men (Mike Hinkle, Brian Nissley, Jim Vincent and David Wetzel) received Confirmation and First Eucharist. Our other gentleman (Richard Miller) is a snow bird...so was working with the RCIA team at St Maximillian Kolbe parish in Port Charlotte, Florida, Richard was brought into full Communion with the Catholic Church while in Florida. All 7 have been warmly welcomed into our parish, thanks to all of you.

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. I can go on and on about the RCIA process here at Immaculate Conception, but let's hear from the people who recently went through it.....

"RCIA was such an amazing and rewarding experience, one I don't think I will ever forget. The people I got to meet and go through this experience with, I will always hold close to my heart. I think this is the best thing I could have done for myself spiritually and emotionally. There was so much we learned; and I hope to continue to learn...but RCIA is really just a beginning, an amazing beginning"....Cindy Carter

"My RCIA experience was more than learning about religion. I learned about myself. I came in as one person but left as part of a family. It is something I will never forget".....Michael Hinkle

"RCIA was truly an experience that I will never forget and will cherish forever. I always looked forward to our weekly classes because of the unbelievably kind and caring people that are part of the RCIA process. 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. This program has helped me understand myself better as a person and as a Catholic. Because I want to continue to learn and grow, I have joined the Church book club, which I thoroughly enjoy and I will be attending the parish weekend at Pyramid Lake this summer with my husband. I plan to join other Church groups and participate in many Church functions in the future. I cannot imagine having gone through any other program but the RCIA process at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Glenville. What a warm, welcoming community!".....April Nedwell

Lynn Winterberger's Cheesy Potatoes

Mix together in large bowl:

1 pkg (20 oz) shredded hash brown potatoes (refrigerated Simply Potatoes)

1 10 and 3/4 oz. can of cream of chicken (or celery/mushroom/broccoli) soup

1/2 - 1 cup sour cream

2 cups shredded sharp cheddar cheese

Spray 13 x 9 glass or metal baking dish with non-stick cooking spray.

Bake at 350 degrees for 70 minutes, or until golden brown and potatoes are cooked through.

OR

Put in a 1 1/2 -3 quart Crock-Pot and cook on high 5-6 hours or on low for 11 hours (or overnight).

When I make it for my family, I usually triple or quadruple the recipe (using 2 cups of sour cream regardless) and cook it overnight in the 6-quart Crock-Pot on low. If I need to, I cook it on high in the morning for an hour or so.

See page 8 for the gluten-free version of this recipe.

Ministry Updates-cont.

Times of Joy—Sacramental Milestones



Congratulations and welcome to these children who received the Sacrament of Baptism from January 13, 2016 to June 29, 2016. We pray for the grace these families need to grow in their faith.

- Landon William, child of William & Kathleen Pickett
- Penelope Marion, child of Jasper & Lindsay Estaris
- Chloe Grace, child of Dean & Deann Harper
- Penelope Rose, child of Kyle & Andrea Vielkind
- Christopher Robert, child of Christopher & Jill Marks
- Marcus Christopher, child of Christopher & Kozeta LaVenture
- Evelynn Elizabeth, child of Curtis & Melissa Terry
- Milania Marie, child of Eric & Katrina Francis
- Cyllia Jocylene Patricia, child of Cyril & Caroline Desplanques
- Madelyn Sage, child of Matthew & Nichole Holupko
- Harper Clare, child of Brian & Jennifer Topping
- Charlotte Ann, child of Jonathan & Laura Steinbiss
- Ella Marie, child of Christopher & Erin Daley
- Tristan Michael, child of Brett & Laura Daley

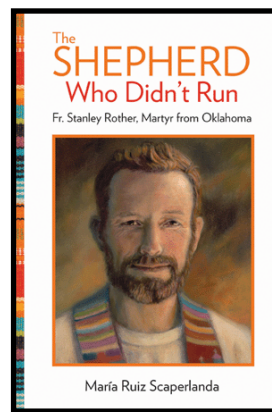
- These couples were married between December 5, 2015 and July 11, 2016. We wish God's blessing upon them.*

 - Colby Costello to Erica Grant
 - Timothy Krause to Katharine Sander
 - Ray Germain to Joanne McKeon

Book Review: *The Shepherd Who Didn't Run, Father Stanley Rother, Martyr from Oklahoma*

by Maria Ruiz Scaperlanda

Reviewed by Fran Szpylczyn



The path to sainthood consists of many steps. One of them is to make sure the person's life becomes well known. You do not know of Father Stanley Rother, but thanks to *The Shepherd Who Didn't Run, Father Stanley Rother, Martyr from Oklahoma*, by Maria Ruiz Scaperlanda, that may change! It was a happy accident that I became familiar with this book long before it was published. The author is a friend and when she mentioned that she was asked by the Diocese of Oklahoma City to write about Fr. Rother, I immediately told her that I knew a priest that was in seminary with him. This led to her speaking with that priest for background material. Who was it? Our own Father Connery!

So, who was Father Stanley Rother? He grew up on an Oklahoma farm and was expected to carry on as a farmer. He surprised his family when he announced that he wanted to be a priest. He attended seminary, but struggled. Rother ended up going to another seminary, and found his path. Eventually he ended up in the small village of Santiago Atitlán, Guatemala, where he became known as *Padre Francisco*, and ultimately as, *Padre Aplas*, his name in the local tongue. Although he once struggled with Latin in the seminary, he learned to speak the local language Tz'utujil with those he shepherded, which endeared him to them even more.

In the end, it was in serving that Rother was assassinated. Guatemala was a land scarred by a long civil war and social unrest. In that tumult it was dangerous to be a priest who brought dignity and hope to the people he lived among. This steadfast shepherd, formed in Christ did not waver when it came to giving it all for God.

My review of this book does little justice to the story of this amazing priest and martyr. The real story is found in the book itself, one that I hope you will read and share with others. One of the things that struck me was the power and possibility of this book for adult and high school level catechesis, as well as a vehicle for parish book clubs.

The Shepherd Who Didn't Run is published by *Our Sunday Visitor*. The author Maria Ruiz Scaperlanda, is a Catholic journalist who has been published broadly in the U.S, including the *New York Times*, *Our Sunday Visitor*, *St. Anthony Messenger*, *Columbia*, and other publications. Maria's work as a Catholic journalist has taken her on international assignments in Central America and the Caribbean, the Middle East, and throughout Europe.

You can learn more about Father Rother and his active sainthood cause at <http://www.archokc.org/cause-for-beatification-of-father-stanley-rother/home>.

Church Service Day—Something for Everyone

Plans are well under way for our first parish service day on November 5. Subcommittees are coordinating with each other to provide a wide variety of options for all parishioners who wish to participate.

- With busy fall **schedules** in mind, the committee has planned for on-site activities that take as little as one hour while also scheduling morning-long volunteering in off-site locations.
- **All ages** will be accommodated in a variety of on-site projects as well as off-site locations. For example, children as well as adults of any age could make comfort blankets for the Children's Hospital at Albany Med or visit the elderly at one of the four nursing homes on our list of project sites.
- All **skill levels** are planned for, from no-sew crafts or filling welcome bags for Ronald McDonald House to painting at Central Park or helping on a Habitat build.
- 22 off-site projects and 7 on-site projects will appeal to a wide variety of **interests**. Anyone who likes crafts can make Thanksgiving decorations, comfort blankets, heart pillows, or doggie beds. Cooks can make a meal in our kitchen for Bethesda House and Booth Home, or sandwiches for Habitat

builders, or prepare a meal at the City Mission. Those who like to organize things can help at the Scotia-Glenville Food Pantry, the City Mission Clothing Distribution Center, the library at Quest, Things of My Very Own, or the

Museum of Science and Innovation. Volunteers who want to work outdoors might consider planting trees or identifying ash trees for the Town of Glenville. Painters can use their skill at Quest, the Shelters of Saratoga, or the classroom at the Central Park Greenhouse. Finally, those with building skills can be part of a group building a house for Habitat for Humanity or can help with remodeling projects at Quest.

While on-site projects are more flexible, off-site projects do have limits in the number of volunteers that can be accommodated. Watch the bulletin for details on signing up which will begin the weekend of the parish picnic.



Mission (continued from page 1)

countless others during a procession in celebration of the feast of Corpus Christi. We were welcomed with open arms by adults and especially children of all ages, many of whom have been sponsored by our partner organization, the St. John Bosco Children's Fund, to attend private Catholic educational institutions in the Dominican Republic and Haiti (Visit SJBCF.org for more information!)

All in all, I would encourage anyone who has the opportunity to participate in a mission trip to do so, as I am forever grateful to have had this experience and would do it again in a heartbeat. It is so valuable to be able to witness the far reaches of the Catholic faith beyond our own small community, especially in terms of how a deep love for Christ and desire to serve contrasts and combats otherwise dismal conditions. Thank you again to the parish and Father Jerry for the generosity towards the trip, and God bless!



Sin and the Call to Conversion by Deacon Mike Melanson

As long as I can remember, I was always taught by my parents, by my school teachers and in general by most people with whom I came in contact, that if you break "the law," it's a sin. If it was 3:00 am and no cars were around and you slowly went through the red traffic light, it broke the law and you sinned. If you ate meat on Friday, you ate half a hamburger and then realized it was Friday and threw away the remaining half, it was a sin for the part that you ate. If you forgot to confess a sin in the confessional, those sins were not forgiven. In other words, when you broke the law, civil or church or both, you committed a sin. Sin was totally centered on the law. It was as if the law wasn't designed to keep us on the straight and narrow, but to define what a sin was and what it was not. I cannot remember being taught anything at all about severing a relationship from God. I cannot remember being taught anything about a covenant relationship between God and me or God and anyone. Sin was simply an event that marked your soul with a "black" mark that you took to your judgment unless you confessed it to a priest.

I do remember being taught that there were two and only two, degrees of sin. The worse were mortal sins and the lesser being venial. It was like going to a "Low Mass" or to a "High Mass." The high mass, some how, was more important to God, I guess... never fully understood this. And as for sin, the mortal sin was the worst and would cause your soul to go directly to hell, "Do not pass go, do not collect \$200," when you died. Mortal sins were only those that broke the Ten Commandments. So, up to my adulthood ages, life was good, as long as I did not kill anyone, steal anything, have an affair with anyone, etc. When I was 18 years old, it was legal to drink alcohol, and since this was not in violation of the Ten Commandments, it was OK to get drunk (... hmm, what's wrong with this logic?)

God seemed so far away except when we sinned, and then he became a God to fear. It was so hard to get a relationship with this distant, vengeful God. But thanks to the infinite and merciful love of our God, an old concept was slowly becoming a new way of looking at sin, and was becoming ever more popular. Today it is known as Contemporary Theology and this was beginning to peek its head into the world once again. It was introducing a whole different kind of sin and a revolutionary way of looking at just what sin could really be all about. After the Second Vatican Council in 1965, the Catholic Church discovered a new way of seeing our God as a merciful God and loving God. This was exciting for those who accepted the fact that God truly loves us. So indeed, if God truly loved us, then we also had to see what we as humans do that could possibly break this relationship with this loving God. Laws still existed, but now we have this new concept of "relationship" with God, and could finally see a new light on the concept of sin. Sin was more than breaking the law. Sin could also come from a social involvement. Sin was being looked at as to whether any single act could summarize the whole person. The sinful act had many varying levels of intention, motivation and meaning. While the former

way of perceiving sin was subjective and objective, we now have to understand it's all about God and our relationship with God. It's no longer just about us and the act we did or thought. It's truly all about how we can have a conversion and a new relationship with the God who loves us.



One of the most significant points of viewing sin as breaking our relationship with God was that we moved from "Act" to "Person" to "God." In this new contemporary model, we could now be freed from the restrictions of the rigidity of the law, and be more open to the love of God. When we decide, of our own free will, to turn away from God's infinite love, we sin. The core of sin used to be associated with our behaviors. By putting God back into the equation, we have established a new freeing of the soul. This opens so many new possibilities to create a relationship with this loving God. When we experience a "metanoia," a change of heart, it becomes a moment, a time that puts us in a deeper loving relationship with the world, with other people and with God. When we choose to love, we also have accepted God's love. But the opposite is not always true. When we choose not to love, God still loves us. It is this concept, this unbreakable bond God has with us that allows us to see sin in a different light. Sin now becomes not an action but truly a heart breaker. While God remains steadfast in His love for us, we have the freedom to turn away from his love for us, and this is sin.

While this contemporary view of sin seems radical to some, it does open a whole new approach to sin. When we don't associate sin to an act but rather a breaking of a relationship to God, we now must realize that we become more responsible to keep this relationship open. Reconciliation for our sins now is not a laundry list and number of times, but must become a psychological approach as to how did I hurt my relationship with God or others.

I must admit that this is so new a concept for me, that I often fall back to the "break a law you sin" concept. It is when I say that I'm sorry, that I realize it is so much more than the act. It is all about the relationship, with the one I sinned against and always with my relationship with God. Maybe there should be a law that makes us look at sin this way. Yet thank God there is not. The freedom to love is always accompanied by the choice to not love. When we choose to not love, this in and of itself is not an action. The will is the responsible agent that leads us to the action. So the action is the indirect result of the sin which was the willful separation of love, and that affects our relationship with God.

The question then, becomes, can a willful desire to break a loving relationship be responsible for all sin? Is this a catch-all to the avoidance of sin? Can it truly be this simple? HMM... why not?

Meet the Staff: Christine Goss, Director of Youth Ministries

Director of Youth Ministries, Christine Goss, admits that it is hard for her to say no, and her responsibilities and activities at Immaculate Conception bear this out. She supervises the secondary level program, writes curriculum, and attends conferences while spending time to develop personal relationships with the teens. Besides this, she is the webmaster for the church website, is working on the church service day, and is heading up this summer's Vacation Bible School. Christine explains that all of this dedication and energy, this "constant pouring out," is possible because faith provides the recharge.

Christine did not plan to work in youth ministry. In fact, from childhood she wanted to be a lawyer, an "agent of change." After graduating from BH-BL, SUNYA and Albany Law School she became a matrimonial and family lawyer. She still practices a little and maintains her professional status by taking legal continuing education courses. As an attorney she can have a real estate license, so this has led to her partnership in Olde Orchard Real Estate.

Christine's work at Immaculate Conception began when, at Mass with her mother, she heard a request for catechists. Her legal schedule would allow her to teach a fourth grade class, and in the Faith Formation program, she found a "welcoming, wonderful place." After one year, Madeline Fretto and Jeannette Leveille encouraged her to apply for the youth ministry position. Christine credits Fr. Connery who gave her confidence and made her feel worthy of the job and Mary Cinelli who told her that because she didn't think she knew enough for the job meant she would do fine. Soon Christine knew the job could not be part-time if it was going to be what she wanted--a relevant program with a focus on service.

Christine has headed the Youth Ministry program which provides faith formation for teens in grades 7-12 since 2003. The program she has designed is flexible to accommodate the interests of the youth and the busy schedules of families. For example, while teens in grades 7-10 are required to take two mini courses annually, they may choose to take both in one semester or one in each term. Furthermore, they can choose their classes from among 6-7 topics per grade level. Christine has created and developed these courses with the catechists without whom, as she says, a program like this could not happen. Most lessons and course materials are created locally. She is enthusiastic now to be developing a course "Faith Lessons from the *Chronicles of Narnia*."

The eleventh grade program prepares candidates for Confirmation. In the fall, they meet in large-group sessions

focusing on their decision to be confirmed. Beginning in January, candidates meet in small groups, participate in a prayer service with their sponsors, serve a meal together at the Schenectady City Mission and attend an overnight retreat. The twelfth grade post-Confirmation program meets once a month on Sunday night and introduces students to strategies that will help them transition with their faith into adulthood. Christine would like to see all students attend the National Catholic Youth Conference which would raise their comfort level with the faith and help them identify as Catholic. (Pictured at left are Christine, Patty Nally and Father Jerry with the teens prior to their leaving for the NCYC.)



Christine credits Patty Nally, Youth Ministry Assistant, with enabling her to do her job by taking care of all the details: mailings, administrative filing, organizing supplies and the Youth Center. She helps Christine to plan and prepare for all Youth Ministries events and chaperones the National Catholic Youth Conference. Christine says, "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 can not control, or outcomes that I am disappointed with, Patty reminds me that it really is not up to me—it is up to God."

Christine's commitment to the youth does not end with the courses she develops and the program she supervises. She attends their games and concerts, writes them messages of encouragement and congratulations--all to show them that she knows and cares about them. She works to build relationships of 100% trust with these teens. She measures success in her position by the relationships she builds with the youth who often seek her out when they come home from college.

When asked what she does to relax in her free time, Christine laughs. She doesn't have much time but when she can, she does binge watch television programs--for 20 hours at a stretch if possible. Family has always been important for her. She credits her parents for always supporting her completely. She and her husband, Matt, are the parents of Sophia, a seventh grader at O'Rourke Middle School.

Christine's difficulty with saying no is rooted in her desire to help people. Unquestionably, the tangible work she does for the youth ministry and for the church in general is outstanding. But the example of faith, caring for others, and service she is setting for teens may be even more important. The youth of Immaculate Conception are lucky to have Christine in their corner.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2016

Don't miss out on a great week of faith, fellowship and fun for children entering grades K - 6. Vacation Bible School is a summer-time favorite and a great way to continue to keep faith formation a part of your summer!

WHEN: August 1 – 5 from 8:45am – 12:30pm

WHERE: Our Lady of Grace Church in Ballston Lake

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

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: July 22, 2016 --- but the earlier the better

REGISTRATION FORMS are available outside of the Faith Formation Office and online at www.icglenville.com/vbs2016

VBS Questions can be directed to Christine Goss, VBS Director at 399-9203 or cicyouth@nycap.rr.com

Lynn Winterberger's Gluten-free Vegetarian Cheesy Potatoes

Mix together in large bowl:

- 1 pkg (20 oz) shredded hash brown potatoes (refrigerated Simply Potatoes)
- 10 oz. of GF cream soup (I use potato leek)
- 1/2 - 3/4 cup sour cream
- 3 cups shredded sharp cheddar cheese

OR

Put in a 1 1/2 -3 quart Crock-Pot and cook on high 5-6 hours or on low for 11 hours (or overnight).

Since I was only able to find ready to eat GF cream soups, I needed to increase the cheese to keep it moist and not have too much liquid.

Spray 13 x 9 glass or metal baking dish with non-stick cooking spray.
Bake at 350 degrees for 70 minutes, or until golden brown and potatoes are cooked through.

When I make it for my family, I usually triple or quadruple the recipe (using 2 cups of sour cream regardless) and cook it overnight in the 6-quart Crock-Pot on low. If I need to, I cook it on high in the morning for an hour or so.

In this eleventh 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:

October 15-16:
Distribution of the next issue of the Pipeline
October 5:
Submissions due.