



Immaculate Conception Purchases New Organ



By Derek Stannard, Director of Music Ministries

After many months of planning and consideration, ICC has made a decision on the purchase of a new organ for our parish. As parishioners probably know, the Rodgers organ that lived in the church for many years failed just before Christmas of 2013. Having already realized the deteriorating state of the organ, I made trips with Brad Day, the President of the Allen Organs here in Schenectady, to the Allen production site. We took a day long trip to the factory in Pennsylvania where I had the opportunity to play many of their display instruments.

The digital organ we have chosen is a three-manual (keyboards) instrument, with pedals and 90 stops. Each “stop” represents a series of sounds that on a pipe organ represent pipes that all speak, or sound, the same way. With this variety of stops, this instrument will be much more colorful and have a much further array of orchestral voices and solo sounds, adding to worship in many ways.

This has been a very active year for Allen Organs, and while the factory is not certain when the new instrument will be finished, it is likely that it will not be in our church until after Christmas of 2014.

Each organ they build is a custom instrument, and much care goes into creating and designing each organ. We will, however, be building the new casework for the organ during our less liturgically active summer months. What this means is that parishioners will see a change in the appearance of the organ façade, but it will not yet be housing the new instrument. This new enlarged space will house the speakers and electronic components of the organ to make it speak.

We are excited about having a high quality and more versatile instrument in our church to aid in worship and enhance the spiritual life of the community.

1852

- ◆ the year that the organ in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Albany was dedicated. It was determined to be unplayable in the 1970's because of damage incurred during the construction of the Empire State Plaza. A temporary electronic organ replaced it, and, in 2010, it was decided to restore and enhance the original instrument.

Some other interesting organ facts—

- ◆ The organ in the Cadet Chapel at West Point is the largest all-pipe organ in a place of worship in the world.
- ◆ The organ in St. Joseph's Church in Las Piñas, Philippines, is made almost entirely of bamboo. Built in the early 1800's, it has been damaged on many occasions but has always been restored.

(Sources: [http://http://en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org),
<http://cathedralic.com>)

Ministry Updates

Christian and Pastoral Ministries

Rosary Makers

The rosary is used by the missions as an educational tool as well as a sacramental and prayer form. Immaculate Conception's Rosary Makers have made 29,519 rosaries to date, but the requests are continual. This year, the eleven members of the group—Patti Brousseau, Anne LaBounty, Eileen Crow, Johanna Nally, Arleen DiCaprio, Marie Nosek, Dorothy Hinds, Joanne Schabinger, Kathy Hopper, Debbie Wood and Connie Janack—made 1,732 rosaries which were sent to a variety of missions, hospitals and prisons.

The group would like to thank the Knights of Columbus and the Rosary Altar Society which have supported their efforts.

New members are welcome. Volunteers will be taught how to make the rosaries and given the supplies to make the rosaries at home. Anyone interested may call Linda at 399-6965, or stop at the first meeting of the year, September 2nd in the Parish Center, room 3.

Contact: Linda Levine: 399-6965.



Funeral Reception Ministry

The Funeral Reception Ministry provides the bereaved family with the time and opportunity to relax together following the funeral service. Receptions are done upon request as long as the hall, Flicker Room, and kitchen are not committed to church or school activities.

The main menu is decided on by family members and prepared by a caterer of their choice. Members of the ministry set up the tables for family and guests as well as serving tables. The ministry also assists with serving the meal, drinks, and desserts which have been prepared and provided by the members of the ministry.

As one family member wrote, "Thank you for taking that burden from me and providing everyone there a chance to mingle and visit with family, share memories, and celebrate his life while being served at a most stressful and emotional time."

Contacts: Marge Kopchik: 399-4585; mgkop@nycap.rr.com and Eileen Sowa: 399-3949; sowaj@union.edu

Respect for Life Ministry

In continuing our mission to foster respect for life in all stages from conception to natural death, the ministry has started a Spiritual Adoption program:

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

to coincide with the Annunciation in March until Jesus' birth in December. Parishioners can spiritually adopt an unborn baby in danger of abortion and pray for this

baby throughout its development until birth.

In addition, during the Fortnight for Freedom called for by the Catholic Bishops of the United States from June 21 to July 4, (http://www.rcda.org/offices/oecfl/fortnight_for_freedom.html), we prayed the Rosary for Religious Freedom on the front lawn on Sunday, June 29 after the 9 am and 11 am Masses.

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

Ministry Updates-cont.

Christian and Pastoral Ministries-cont.

Afterglow of the Eucharist

This ministry provides intercessory prayer to God for any need, large or small, on behalf of anyone who requests it. The Afterglow prayer team is available near the tabernacle in the church following the 11 a.m. Mass.

All are invited to come to the team with any prayer needs they have, either for themselves or others. Since many will have received the Body and Blood of Christ a short time before, the prayer team will call on the presence of Jesus to intercede with God the Father for the need(s) being requested. Prayer will conclude with

both the requestor and the team praying together. All requests are kept private and confidential.

Afterglow prayer has been available for many years at Immaculate Conception, and many people have come forward for prayer. People have been healed, mothers have conceived children, peace has been granted, and problems have been resolved, all by the power of prayer. Truly our God is rich in kindness and blessings. All that is needed is to ask.

Contact: Diane Bigos: 399-3899; dbigos@nycap.rr.com

100+ the number of people attending the bi-annual Anointing Mass on May 20 sponsored by **Pastoral Care**. Anyone with a health problem in mind, body or spirit, was welcomed. Contact: Rachel Winters: 399-9168; pastoralcare@nycap.rr.com

Community Life Ministries

Friends of Musoma

This past winter Gina Schneider and Father Choka delivered solar-powered lights to students in two remote, rural village schools in Tanzania to help them study at night for their national exams. The “roads” were more like ditches, but Father Choka’s Honda CRV (purchased with the help of funds donated by parishioners) proved its worth, getting stuck only once. Fortunately, Father Choka was able to “pop a wheely” to get free.

In early July, Gina and four other representatives of Friends of Musoma (Phyllis Chase, Paulette George, and Georgiann and Eric Holm) will be traveling to Tanzania to take part in the co-celebration of Father Alexander Choka’s 80th birthday and Father Laurenti Magesa’s 40th anniversary as a priest. Besides visiting the sponsored children at the school in Musonga, the travelers also hope to deliver their annual donation to several charities that serve the needs of children in the area and make donations for the purchase of rice for children to alleviate food shortages caused by a severe drought.

Several opportunities exist for involvement in the FOM: additional co-sponsors to share in the rising tuition costs of already-sponsored students, additional board members who have an interest in the work of the organization and are willing to commit some time to administrative functions, and someone with the ability to establish a web page and/or Facebook page.

Contact: Gina Schneider: 399-1961; ginamarie5ny@gmail.com



Pre-Cana

The Diocesan Pre-Cana program at Immaculate Conception is very busy in the spring preparing all the couples that have spring and summer weddings. The program resumes in the fall.

The ministry is always looking for married couples interested in sharing their experiences with the engaged. These married couples will find this a rewarding experience which strengthens their own marriages too.

Contacts: Mike/Amy Richardson: mikeandamy@verizon.net

Ministry Updates-cont.

Liturgical Ministries

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

The EME Ministry assisted with the preparation of all the Masses during the Lenten Season as well as assisting during all of the Masses of the Triduum. Our parishoners are very fortunate to have so many dedicated people who are willing to share their time and talent with our community.

With a new signup procedure, the EME can select the position from which he or she will distribute communion. Hopefully, this streamlining will make it easier for everyone to remember where they will be standing.

A new recruit training session is planned for the fall for anyone interested in becoming an EME and for those who would like a refresher. Watch the bulletin for dates and information.

Contacts: Mel Byron or Dan Byron: 346-8954; mbyron1@nycap.rr.com

Administrative Ministries

Collection Counting Committee

The Collection Counting Committee members are responsible for the accurate counting of the weekly collection. This activity is accomplished each Monday morning, between 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. by six members who are scheduled approximately every three or four Mondays.

Anyone who is good with figures and is able to commit to the schedule can be considered for membership.

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

Faith Formation

Faith Formation

Faith Formation concluded for the 2013-2014 year with the Crowning of the Blessed Mother on Sunday, May 11. During the singing of "Bring the Flowers of the Rarest," kindergarten student Maria Isele placed a crown of roses on Our Blessed Mother's head.

Each month of this program year, the "Student of the Month" award was given to one boy and one girl in a specific grade. Also, students from the 5th and 6th grades were selected to be readers at each of the Children's Masses. Thanks to Mrs. Dona Fragnoli for preparing these readers.

Many wonderful things happened in the Faith Formation program this year, for example, the fifteen students in Mrs. LoBaido's 4th grade class saved their pennies throughout the year, held two bake sales, and donated the \$300 they raised to Ronald McDonald House. Mrs. Smith's 5th grade class put a play on for the rest of the Monday classes, and Mr. Zukas' 3rd grade class learned about Adoration by participating in Adoration at least once a month. On September 7, Faith Formation hits the ground running for another busy and exciting year.

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

Adult Faith Enrichment

Sean Caron's presentation on Blessed John Paul II was followed by a Lenten Faith Sharing program called "Encountering Lent" facilitated by Dona Fragnoli.

In the next six months, the ministry is planning ways to continue the small faith-sharing group started during the "Encountering Lent" program. In addition, the team is planning to present a 6-week series on Fr. Robert Baron's New Evangelization and to have Dr. Peter Avvento present a 2-3 week series titled "Mary: The First Disciple." Fr. Pat Butler is scheduled to come for a 4-6 week program during Lent 2015.

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

Parishioner Megan Ambrosino Fulfills Dream of Teaching Art in Africa by Trish Ranney



boarders.

Only a handful of days after Megan arrived, the children left on a 5-week Easter break, and Megan's travel mate returned to the States. Megan's minimal exposure to her new students allowed her to realize that any pre-conceived notions about teaching art had to be quickly extinguished. She had underestimated the immediate limitations of her brood of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. The tables had turned. Megan had become her own student.

When the children returned, Megan taught them how to move their wrists to draw something as simple as a circle. She watched as many of them progressed rapidly, developing a sense of success as they realized that they *could* draw a line, they *could* draw a circle. She provided positive reinforcement and watched as the students modeled her behavior by providing positive reinforcement to their peers.

And then there was Claire – the gifted child who loved art and wanted to spend all of her spare time with Megan. She was “always watching, staring, and then sharing her own drawings.” When the other children left on break, Claire stayed behind, and Megan guided Claire through a major project resulting in a giant charcoal self-portrait. Megan hung the drawing in the classroom. When the other children returned, the 7th and 8th graders were excited to do their own self-portraits. “Claire was the catalyst for the entire school – she became an assistant for other students.”

Unlike most of the other teachers in the compound, Megan would not use the traditional caning corporal punishment. While the other teachers and students mocked her approach of disciplining by speaking sternly, she was able to gain control of her classroom and earn the adoration of her students.

Her year-long experience in Nigeria taught Megan that you can do and teach anything without a lot. Now she laughs when she thinks about the 300 pipe cleaners she had brought with her. She learned that she had to put her own creativity to the test, asking, “How will I do this?” She witnessed the power of self-esteem and how it can happen on the most basic level.

During her time in Nigeria, Megan observed that unlike our culture, people lived in a very communal environment, doing everything together. She realized that “...we have so much stuff here that we *think* we need, but we don't. They do without it, and life goes on; life is good.”

For more information on Megan's teaching experience and to see pictures of her students and their artwork, follow the links by going to her blog at www.growthofheart.wordpress.com.

When Immaculate Conception parishioner Megan Ambrosino finally saw her dream of traveling to Africa to teach art to underprivileged children coming to fruition, she was ready to take whatever God placed in front of her. She searched for an appropriate volunteer opportunity and ultimately connected with Maryland-based Notre Dame Mission Volunteers, noting that the experience they offered her “felt right.” So, she prepared herself for a year-long adventure in Nigeria, taking with her a voluminous amount of art supplies that were generously donated by a number of local organizations.

In March 2013, Megan and a former volunteer flew to Abuja, the capital. At the airport, they were met by one of the sisters from the convent, and they began their 7-hour ride to the compound. Nigeria was overwhelmingly hot, dry and dusty. The bumpy ride to the village of Amoyo was marked by a strong military presence of “big men with guns” who conducted car searches at various roadblocks.

As their journey continued, Megan wondered “how far are they taking us?” as the ride continued from city to village with no people, buildings or other roads in sight. Eventually they arrived at a junction where they waited for their final ride to the compound. Their half-hour wait seemed very long, as “people crowded around to stare at two Americans and one Nigerian sister standing on the side of the road. We had a lot of goods and looked totally out of place. Everything stood out,” said Megan.

Upon reaching the compound, Megan was provided with her own room. The compound included a convent, a small farm, a playfield for the children, a 2-story L-shaped school, a children's hospital, and a dining hall. The art room consisted of 2 tables, one desk, and 4 stools – for 30 children who attended the school as

The Nativity—Thoughts on Brother Mickey’s Painting, by Fr. Jerry

Merry Christmas! Well, not quite...but the celebration of the birth of Christ, that great day in which the Word of God became flesh, is less than six months away. I’m not suggesting you run out to the mall and start your Christmas shopping, but I am recommending that you take some time to reflect upon God the Father’s generous gift to us in his son, Jesus.

As I write my reflections for this issue of *Pipeline*, I am gazing on the Nativity scene, created by Brother Mickey McGrath, which hangs on the south wall of our church. In the last issue of *Pipeline*, I reflected on the hanging of Mary and Jesus meeting on the road to Calvary. Today’s reflection is again about mother and son (and father too), but a much more gentle setting.

Entitled **“My Lord, what a morning!”** the picture of the birth of Christ is just that: an incredible, miraculous, holy day! The artist sets the scene with a heavenly dark blue sky, sprinkled with dancing stars—almost as if the heavens were rejoicing at the miracle happening on the earth. Behind the new born child and his parents, is a simple framed shelter, held together with whimsical laces of grasses along with a touch of snow. In the lower right corner is the child’s crib—golden straw with a burning candle next to it. The flame burns bright and reminds us that the Light of the World is born! Emmanuel, God with us.

Our main characters are in the forefront of the painting. Joseph, nestled close to his wife, is dressed in a mantle of green depicting hope. Joseph gazes upon his new son. One senses courage and protection in the young father’s eyes. Mary, so in love with her husband, stares ever so lovingly on their little child. One sees wonder and delight in Mary’s eyes. Joseph and Mary’s warm bodies and hearts keep the infant Jesus warm and safe.



Image courtesy of Bro. Michael O'Neill McGrath OSFS and Bee Still Studio. All rights reserved.

The image of the Nativity recalls the opening prayer for Christmas day in the New Roman Missal: **“This most sacred night is radiant with the splendor of the true light!”** May we delight, not only on December 25th, but every day, in God’s gift to us, our Lord Jesus. May we live good and honorable lives so to become worthy of union with Jesus in the eternal life that awaits us all.

Merry Christmas!

POPE FRANCIS’ TWITTER PAGE:



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

“MAY WE NEVER TALK ABOUT OTHERS
BEHIND THEIR BACKS, BUT SPEAK TO
THEM OPENLY ABOUT WHAT WE THINK.”

(JUNE 9, 2014)

Cross Depicts Jesus' Final Hours by Mel Byron

I began this project before Easter, 2013, left it for a time to work on other projects, and completed it for Easter, 2014. The cross was on display in the Gathering Space during the Triduum. I estimate that I probably spent the equivalent of two or three months to create the cross.

This intricately designed wall cross is a depiction of the 14 stations of Jesus' final hours and a devotion commemorating the Passion of Christ. From condemnation to crucifixion to burial, this display helps the faithful to make the spiritual pilgrimage of prayer while meditating upon the footsteps of Christ to the Cross.

Each beveled plaque features scrolled art cutout designs layered atop 5/32 inch plywood, painted black for a most dramatic effect.

The wood used for the plaques themselves is 1/4

inch thick maple; the background for each plaque is made from 5/32 inch plywood painted black. The cross itself, upon which the plaques are mounted, is made from 1/2 inch walnut. I then assembled the entire cross and treated it with Danish Oil to preserve it and to bring out the natural beauty of the wood grain.



"I enjoy being a lector because

... before all else, there was the Word. By loving the Word; to read it, to study it, and to publicly proclaim it, is God's gift to me, and a calling to share it." (Cap Capello)

... of the camaraderie and mutual support I get from my fellow lectors, because I am in awe of the talent and humility of my fellow lectors, because I love to participate in the liturgy, as an altar boy for 10 years and a lector for 32, and because of Holy Saturday." (Sean Caron)

... I am using the gifts that God gave me to spread His word...and learning more about Holy Scripture." (Tom Rigatti)

... it is a deeper experience in reading the Gospel and an opportunity to communicate the word of God to the parish." (John Hinds)

... it enriches my spiritual life when I am reflecting on the message while preparing for the readings." (Judy Brodeur)

... it gives me the opportunity to use my gift of a good speaking voice for the honor and glory of God." (Betty Parks)

... it is a spiritual pleasure and honor to proclaim the word of God to our community." (Peggy Melanson)

... many years ago there was a call to have everyone become a good steward for our Parish. I thought what a better way to answer that call than become a Lector. Not only are you speaking God's word but at the same time you are fulfilling your own pleasure by thinking you may be instrumental in having at least one parishioner actually hear God's word." (Rita James)

... it is a wonderful opportunity to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit in a very real way." (Dona Fragnoli)

New members are always welcome to this ministry. If you are interested, please contact Dona Fragnoli: dona.fragnoli@nycap.rr.com or 424-8090.

Connie Ottaviano's Italian Ricotta Cookies

Ingredients

- 1 lb. ricotta cheese
- 1/2 lb. margarine or butter
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 4 cups flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt

Directions

1. Mix dry ingredients together first. Add remaining ingredients.
2. Place on ungreased cookie sheet by teaspoonful.
3. Bake at 350 degrees for 12-15 minutes. Icing: mix confectionery sugar, lemon (or whatever flavoring you choose) and water until smooth and fairly thick. Glaze each cookie and top with candy.

Mark Your Calendars—

September 14—Parish Picnic

Theme: "American Pie"

September 27—Ministry Morning

"Here I Am, Lord"

Speaker: Bishop Howard Hubbard

Ask Fr. Jerry

Question:

What is the significance of the six blue pieces of glass in the large crosses on the north, south and east walls of the church?

Answer: So many people have asked me this question. After checking with Fr. Tom Connery, our Pastor Emeritus, and people who were around at the time of the

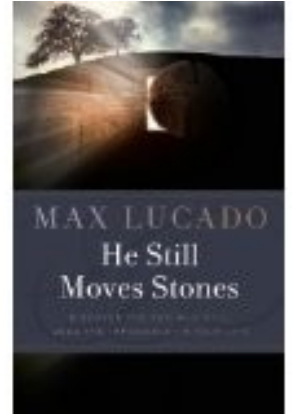


building of the church, I have come up *without* an answer to the question. Nobody knows! It's a mystery! The best answer I received is this: Fr. Manny Starks, who built the church, wanted to honor his parents in some way. One liked blue and one like red. That's the best answer I have. If it were five red blocks of glass, one could think of the five wounds of Christ. But there more than five! If it were seven blue pieces of glass, one could think of the Seven Sacraments. But there are only six. So you are invited to think as you please. Perhaps, red could represent the martyrs. Maybe it could represent the color of a Monsignorand Fr. Starks wanted to be a Monsignor! Maybe blue represents the color for Mary or the color of the sky. In any case, they look pretty in our worship space! Think as you will!

Jesus' Scriptural Messages Made Relevant for Today

Reviewed by Anne LaBounty

He Still Moves Stones, by Max Lucado, (Thomas Nelson, 1999.)



Max Lucado is a well known and respected Christian writer whose books are easy to read and, at the same time, very profound providing good spiritual food for everyday living. In this book, he uses scripture passages at the beginning of each chapter to show what Jesus did and then relates them in a clear and thought-provoking way to show what Jesus does for us today.

For example, his chapter titled, "The Power of Timid Prayer," uses the scripture passage from Mark 9: 14-29, in which a father implores Jesus "if you can" to cure his son of the seizures he's suffered from since he was very young. Those few words of the father "if you can" are his prayer, and Jesus, with love and compassion, answers the prayer by healing his son. We worry so much about how we pray. Are we using the right words? Should we be in Church or on our knees? Are we in the right frame of mind? But as Max Lucado says, "The power of prayer is in the one who hears it and not the one who says it." I found that extremely comforting.

Each chapter is a refreshing lesson in itself and he has written several other books that I look forward to reading.

In this third issue of the *Parish Pipeline*, many 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., or
- 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:
