



Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Community ends 50 year mission in The Bahamas



In gratitude for the dedication and service of the Congregation of The Sacred Hearts of Mary and Jesus (SS.CC.) who served in The Bahamas for fifty years, a plaque was placed at the front entrance of St. Joseph Church, bearing the names of those who served in The Bahamas. Pictured from left to right: Frs. Michael Kelly, SS.CC., Stanley Kolasa, SS.CC., Martin Gomes, SS.CC., Archbishop Patrick Pinder, STD., Archbishop of Nassau, Fr. William Petrie, SS.CC, Provincial Superior of the Sacred Hearts Community and Fr. Christopher Santangelo.

Fifty years of faithful ministry to the people of The Bahamas ended officially, when hundreds of parishioners and friends gathered at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral to express their gratitude at a Mass of Thanksgiving to the Congregation of The Sacred Hearts of Mary and Jesus (SS.CC.) on Wednesday, October 26th, 2011.

The occasion was one of both gratitude and sadness. Gratitude for the many years of service, and sadness as we say goodbye to the members of the SS.CC Community, who were our pastors, but also our friends.

On Sunday, October 30th, 2011, the faithful gathered for Mass at St. Joseph's Church to say farewell to Fr. Martin Gomes. The morning began with a procession from the old church to the new.

Archbishop Patrick Pinder, STD, CMG, was the main celebrant and homilist, concelebrants; Priests of the Archdiocese, Sacred Hearts Provincial, Father Bill Petrie, Frs. Martin Gomes, Michael Kelly, Stan Kolasa and Chris Santangelo.

After the Mass, Fr. William Petrie, SS.CC., Provincial Superior of the Sacred Hearts Community, unveiled a plaque that is placed at the front entrance of St. Joseph's Church bearing the names of those who served The Bahamas, following the unveiling, Archbishop Patrick Pinder, STD, blessed the plaque.

The SS.CC. started their ministry in The Bahamas in February 1961, when Frs. Francis Larkin and Damien Veary, left Fairhaven, Massachusetts, to begin a Mission on Abaco Island. Thirty Sacred Hearts have served not only in Abaco, but on New Providence, Bimini, Eleuthera, Harbour Island and Long Island.

(see photos of Mass on pages 4,5,6)

VIRTUS: "Protecting God's Children" program launched



Participants at VIRTUS: "Protecting God's Children" Adult Program listen eagerly to Mrs. Mahalia Paul, coordinator. The program is designed to educate and train clergy, staff, volunteers, parents and adults about the nature of child sexual abuse and how to prevent harm to children. The program was officially launched in the Archdiocese on September 28th, 2011. (see article on page 3)



Mrs. Mahalia Paul, AEC regional coordinator for Protecting God's Children Program and of the Diocese of Roseau facilitated the Virtus: "Protecting God's Children" workshop.

Archbishop Speaks



Archbishop Patrick C. Pinder, STD

Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary (SS.CC.) Mass of Thanksgiving homily

... "Fifty years of ministry, presence, witness and work is a contribution for which we could not sufficiently repay in any material way..."

tion of Fr. Stan Kolasa. It is his legacy, his gift of beauty to us, as a place to worship God, the source and fullness of all beauty.

The renovated Our Lady's Church with its ample baptismal font and air conditioning - this is but a part of the gift of Fr. Michael Kelly. Fr. Kelly spent the great majority of his years as a priest right here in The Bahamas. His surely is a Bahamian priesthood.

Alas, the great builder himself is Fr. Martin Gomes, he rebuilt the St. Joseph Rectory. Then, he undertook the task of the new Parish Church. Finally, he turned his hands to the splendid new Parish Hall. Each project he began and carried through to completion bringing the entire parish community along, onboard the project.

The footprints which the men of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary have left are not just in concrete and stone. They are also in the hearts and lives of our people. Often, I have heard of how the men of the Sacred Hearts community have touched the lives of individuals. These impressions are remembered and retold even years after the priest had gone to a new place - some in this world, some in the next. Here we remember Fr. Chris Grannell, SS.CC.

As we gather on this occasion and listen to the words proclaimed, we note some words from the Second Letter to Timothy, "I fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." (II Timothy 4:7)

The words speak not of following blindly or listlessly, but of honing our skills and putting out our best. They speak of persistence, of finishing the race.

Our faith is not for the faint-hearted or the uncommitted. However, the reward at the end of it all is more than worth the sacrifices we must make along the way. In another place St. Paul says: 'We know that all things work for good for those who love God,

who are called according to his purpose." I mentioned that this is a note on vocation. And so it is, it is referring to our Christian vocation. Each of us has one.

In the men to whom and for whom we offer thanks tonight, we have excellent examples of vocations lived out well, in their priestly vocation. Today, I was presented with a neat little booklet titled, A Popular History of the SS.CC. in The Bahamas. It is written by Fr. Michael Kelly. In a sense it is a new Acts of the Apostles. It is a brief account of the apostleship of the Sacred Hearts Fathers among us. In it the author points out that their mission to The Bahamas is ended but their love for The Bahamas continues. I am deeply gratified to know that and I, no doubt, speak for many beside myself in saying so.

Our Gospel today begins by setting the scene with Jesus passing through towns and villages, teaching as he went. These men to whom and for whom we gather to offer thanks, they too have passed through many towns and villages in this little Archdiocese of ours. They too have taught in the name of Jesus by word and example.

As we come to this moment when we must part, we do so thankfully and prayerfully. We pray that God may always bless your community with every kind of goodness and grace. May you prosper in every way that advances the Gospel and gives glory to God.

Now, I have one final request. I ask the favor of your prayers for our Archdiocese as well. Though we may be distant from you, may we always remain close to you, always in your prayers. May we support each other in prayer and though we travel different roads now, may we be united in the fullness of our hope which is the glory of God's presence in the fullness of time. In the meantime... God bless you always.

they did. We must do in our time what they did in times past." These thoughts come back to me tonight, with full force, as we gather to mark the end of the mission of the Sacred Hearts Community here among us.

Think for minute, the Sacred Hearts Community has been present and ministering among us since 1961. From then until now is a span of fifty years. The reality is, we have no local Bahamian priest who has served us that long. The one who comes closest is our highly regarded and deeply loved Monsignor Preston Moss, who was ordained in 1965 (46 years ago).

Fifty years of ministry, presence and witness and work is a contribution for which we could not sufficiently repay in any material way.

I am pleased that we have with us tonight Fr. William Petrie, SS.CC. who is the Provincial Superior of the Sacred Hearts Community. Also present are other members of this community who have served here in the past, Fr. Michael Kelly, SS.CC. and Fr. Stan Kolasa, SS.CC. Of course, our beloved Fr. Martin Gomes, has been this community's enduring presence here over at St. Joseph ever since the departure of our much loved co-worker Fr. Patrick Fanning, SS.CC. whose latest assignment here was Long Island.

This celebration tonight will have a second chapter at St. Joseph Parish this Sunday. It is only fitting to be so. After fifty years the men of the Community of the Sacred Hearts have surely left their footprints in our Bahamian sand.

In fact that footprint is impressed in more than just sand. It is molded in brick and mortar. Who can see and not be impressed by the beautiful church of St. Francis de Sales in Marsh Harbour, Abaco? That beautiful church was first born in the artistic imagina-

A Mass of Thanksgiving for for the Ministry of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary (SS.CC.) in the Archdiocese of Nassau (1961-2011) was held at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral on Wednesday, October 26, 2011. Archbishop Patrick C. Pinder, S.T.D., delivered the homily, text as follows:

Readings:

Romans 8:26-30

[Psalms 13:4-5, 6]

II Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18

Luke 13:22-30

"We know that all things work for the good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28) With that note on vocations from St. Paul we began our hearing of the Sacred Word on this pleasant October evening.

We are gathered this evening for a celebration in the truest sense of Eucharist. That is to say, we have come to give thanks. We have come to give thanks to God for the ministry of the men of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, among us.

Their ministry among us as priests and brothers began in 1961. This year 2011, with the departure of Fr. Martin Gomes, SS.CC. that presence and commitment of fifty years draws to an end. This moment leaves us thankful but it leaves us sad as well. No one likes to see friends leave.

On June 29, the Feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul, in the year 2005, we were gathered in this Cathedral for a similar celebration. We had gathered to mark the formal conclusion of the Benedictine Mission to The Bahamas. On that occasion I said, "Let there be no mistake about it, the end of the Benedictine mission here is a renewed call for deeper responsibility and commitment on our part. We must now, not just admire and talk about what



AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

PUBLICIZE YOUR EVENT HERE

The Bahama Catholic welcomes calendar items of parish/organizations events that are open to the whole Archdiocese.

Pastoral Appointments

Archbishop C Patrick Pinder has announced the following changes in priest assignments.

Msgr Alfred Culmer has been assigned as pastor of St. Joseph Parish, effective November 6th, 2011

Fr. Reginald Demeritte has been assigned as pastor of St. Theresa (Exuma), effective October 9th, 2011.

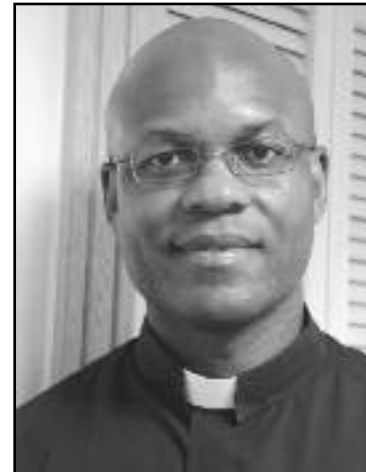
Fr. Anselm Russell, has been assigned as pastor of St. Thomas More Parish, effective November 6th, 2011.

Fr. Steephen L. Koola, CM, has been assigned as pastor of St. Agnes (GB), effective October 9th, 2011.

Fr. Saju M. Vadakumpadan, CMI, has been assigned as pastor of St. Vincent de Paul, Hunter (GB), effective October, 9th, 2011.



Fr. Steephen L. Koola, CMI Msgr. Alfred Culmer Fr. Saju M. Vadakumpadan, CMI



Fr. Anselm Russell



Fr. Reginald Demeritte

VIRTUS: "Protecting God's Children" program launched



Mrs. June Hutcheson, Guidance Counselor at Aquinas College and Mrs. Denise Louis, principal of Xavier Lower School taking notes at training session.

In keeping with the Antilles Episcopal Conference (AEC) Bishops' mandate to commit "to do all in their power to protect the children of the region from sexual abuse", the VIRTUS Protecting God's Children Adult Program was launched in the Archdiocese of Nassau on September 28th, 2011.

Mrs. Mahalia Paul, AEC regional coordinator for Protecting God's Children Program and of the Diocese of Roseau facilitated the workshop. Archbishop Patrick Pinder was among those in attendance which included priests, deacons, pastoral administrators, principals, teachers and local facilitators Dr. Sonia Lunn and Mr. D'Arcy Rahming.

VIRTUS, is the brand name that identifies best practices and programs designed to help prevent wrong doing and promote "right doing" within religious organizations. The VIRTUS program empowers organizations and people to better control risk and improve the lives of all those who interact with the Church.

The Virtus Protecting God's Children adult program focuses on training to increase

awareness about the nature of child sexual abuse and to ensure a safe environment in all parishes, schools and diocesan programs. This awareness session help adults recognize the warning signs of abuse, and identifies the appropriate way to respond to suspicious behavior. The VIRTUS program was developed by the National Catholic Risk Retention Group Inc.

Mrs. Paul notes that because of the way the church is structured in many of our dioceses, there is no system in place for background checks for employees or volunteers. Having now implemented The Virtus Protecting God's Children adult program, a Safe Environment Committee will be established, which will have the charge of developing policies and procedures ensuring a child safe environment.

According to Mrs. Paul, the Protecting God's Children program will be implemented in all the Dioceses of the Antilles Episcopal Conference.



LEFT PHOTO: Archbishop Pinder prays the prayer of consecration at the Mass of Thanksgiving on Wednesday, October 26th, 2011 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, from left to right are: Fr. Glen Nixon, Rector of The Cathedral, Fr. William Petrie, SS.CC., Provincial Superior of the Sacred Hearts Community, Deacon Gregory Taylor and Monsignor Preston Moss.



TOP PHOTO: Parishioners of St Joseph's Church, Stephen Ramsay and Julia Stevens enjoying last fews days with beloved Pastor, Fr. Martin Gomes.

BOTTOM PHOTO: Deacon Peter Rahming and Fr. Michael Kelly, SS.CC. preparing to process in the Cathedral for the Mass of Thanksgiving. Deacon Rahming served as the Deacon of Our Lady's Parish under Fr. Kelly's tenure.



Fr. Stanley Kolasa , SS.CC., Fr. Glen Nixon and Fr. Michael Kelly, SSCC pose for BC's photographer. Fr. Kolasa served at St. Francis de Sales, Marsh Harbour, Abaco until his ministry ended in 2002.



Fr. Kelly was greeted warmly by Our Lady's parishioners. This was his first visit to Nassau since he left in 2010.



Fr. Christopher Santangelo, SS.CC. greets Donna Moxey as Lillian McNeil looks on. Fr Chris served at St. Bede's Parish until his departure in 2005.



Fr. Gomes' Mass of Thanksgiving began with parishioners marching from the old church to the new.



Fr. William Petrie, SS.CC., Provincial Superior of the Sacred Hearts Community is pictured capturing all the activities.



Parishioners process into Mass of Thanksgiving. Right photo shows, Deacon Gregory Taylor (he has served with Fr. Gomes for 12 years) and Fr. Martin Gomes.



St. Joseph Church Marching Band processes into the Church. Mrs. Doris Bullard, (seated front row with hat) the oldest member of St. Joseph's Church.

- Photo courtesy of Carlton Robinson



TOP LEFT: Parishioner, Una Miller, Bernadette Ingraham, (St. Joseph's Parish Secretary) and Catherine Brown (former Pastoral Associate). TOP RIGHT: Congregation praying The Our Father.



- Photo courtesy of Carlton Robinson

TOP: Ramon Mitchell, reads the first scripture reading. RIGHT PHOTO: Carolyn Virgil presents Fr. Gomes with a gift at the luncheon that followed the Mass.



SS.CC. Community Achievements

- New church on Abaco, at Marsh Harbour, under the guidance of Fr. Stan
- New church at St. Joseph's Nassau, under the guidance of Fr. Gomes
- New church at Long Island dedicated under the care of Fr. Pat Fanning
- Renovated Church at Our Lady of the Holy Souls in New Providence in the time of Fr. Mike Kelly
- New air conditioning at St. Bede's Church in Nassau during the time of Fr. Chris Santangelo
- New community centre at Our Lady of the Holy Souls, visualized by Fr. Christ Grannell and accomplished after his death
- An adult centre for seniors at St. Joseph under the care and concern of Fr. Gomes
- Food and clothing for Haitian community at the Citrus Farm outside Treasure Cay in the time of Fr. Rene Gaudin
- Fr. Pat Fanning driving the needy to the clinic on Long Island
- Service beyond the call of duty by Fr. Chris Grannell who responded day or night to the call of the poor
- Frs. Chris Grannell and Chris Santangelo visiting and caring for prisoners in Team Ministry
- Fr Mike Kelly assisting AIDS patients through the local Samaritan Ministry
- under the guidance of Fr. Gomes employing a full time Care of the Needy person to coordinate food outreach to the disadvantage
- Fr Stan using his artistic skills to design church vestments at St. Joseph's and Abaco and teaching others to do the same
- Supporting a branch of the St. Vincent de Paul at St. Bede's during the tenure of Fr. Christ Santangelo
- Introduction the Blessed Damien Banquet at Our Lady of the Holy Souls to which poor, rich, needy, young and old are welcomed, in the time of Fr. Mike Kelly
- Shipment s of books and education material for Abaco and Nassau, in the time of Fr. Rene Gaudin
- Fr. Pat Fanning taking a special interest in Dunmore, Long Island
- Assist in providing legal advice through a parish lawyer in the parish of St. Bede, in the time of Chris Santangelo

PLAQUE UNREVEALING AND BLESSING - Following the Mass, the congregation gathered in front of the Church to witness Fr. William Petrie, SS.CC., Provincial, unveiled a plaque that was place in front of St. Joseph Church in gratitude and appreciation to the Congregation of Sacred Hearts for the many years of ministry to the Catholic Community of The Bahamas. He is pictured reading the names of the members. They are: Fr. Jeremiah Casey, SS.CC., Fr. Liam Crowley, SS.CC., Fr. Patrick Fanning, SS.CC., Fr. Benedict Folger, SS.CC., Fr. Rene Gaudin, SS.CC., Fr. Martin Gomes, SS.CC., Fr. Christopher Grannell, SS.CC.,

Fr. Daniel Hallemen, SS.CC., Fr. Benedict Horrell, SS.CC., Fr. Andrew Jahn, SS.CC., Fr. Michael Kelly, SS.CC., Fr. Patrick Killelia, SS.CC., Fr. Stanley Kolasa, SS.CC., Fr. Francis Larkin, SS.CC., Fr. John Leahy, SS.CC., Fr. David Lupo, SS.CC., Fr. Brian Marggraf, SS.CC., Br. Ignatius McGraw, SS.CC., Fr. Daniel McCarthy, SS.CC., Fr. James Nickel, SS.CC., Fr. Simon Pease, SS.CC., Fr. Christopher Santangelo, SS.CC., Fr. Michael Shanahan, SS.CC., Fr. Jerry Shanley, SS.CC., Fr. John F. Sullivan, SS.CC. and Damien Veary, SS.CC. Archbishop Patrick Pinder, Frs. Gomes and Kelly looks on.

Fathers Gomes and Fanning says farewell



As their departure ends fifty years of The Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary (SS.CC.) ministry in The Bahamas, Fathers Martin Gomes, SS.CC., and Patrick Fanning, SS.CC., share their experiences, challenges and joys of serving the Bahamian people.

Fr. Fanning: "Serving the people of The Bahamas has been a blessing"

(BC) Father Pat what year did you arrive in The Bahamas?

(FP) I arrived in The Bahamas August of 1995, and was assigned to St. Gregory's in Gregory Town, Eleuthera. Both my religious community, the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, and myself were really excited to be increasing our numbers and our commitment to the Diocese at that time.

(BC) Where were your assignments?

(FP) My two assignments were on Eleuthera and Long Island. When I was elected Provincial of the Province, I had to leave Gregory Town after what I thought were two short years. I was able to return to the Bahamas after my term, and was assigned to Long Island. Both faith communities welcomed me as family, and probably my happiest moment was when, after about seven years on Long Island, someone was a little bit shocked that I wasn't Bahamian. Either they were telling the truth, or doing a good job of acting (probably), but it made me feel like I was home, and I was.

(BC) What did you enjoy most/least about your assignment in The Bahamas?

(FP) The thing I enjoyed the most about being in The Bahamas was the "faith-centeredness" of the folks here. Probably the thing I enjoyed the least was the growing influence of the U.S. (and other) media on young people. I really experienced a great sadness in how some young people chose to go negative instead of seeing the treasure they had in their own culture. The embracing of "things" as bringing happiness, even to the detriment of family, is particularly sad. My hope is that somehow there is a wakeup to what is being lost.

(BC) Reflect on experiences and challenges.

(FP) There are so many, so I will just single one out to represent them. Perhaps one of the greatest experiences for me personally was after Tropical Storm Noel, when the community on Long Island, along with the wider Church and nation, took to recovery, when things such as fresh drinking water, or enough food made us grateful beyond measure. We discovered for a brief moment in that time of our life, that

life and health are much more important than the accumulation of things, and that looking out for the well-being of others on the island brought immense joy and satisfaction to the heart; that no amount of game playing on the internet, or the size of our bank account, or the amount of land we had, or the clothing we wear could ever equal being Christ-like to each other. I was especially happy that everyone on the island received from our Church, rich and poor alike, because at that moment we were all in need, and a natural disaster reminded us that we were in fact equal in God's eyes. Hopefully we carry true treasures like that into the future.

(BC) Father, after living in The Bahamas for eight years, you must have a favorite Bahamian dish.

(FP) Oh, now this is a hard one to answer. Stuff I won't be able to get in Hawaii! Conch Fritters, guava duff, good goat pepper for cooking, wow, the list is long! There was a poem read (and written) for my departure from Long Island...greatest line of the poem (with a nod to Deon Roxbury who wrote it...) "From frying and baking you filled our stomachs. With foods you cooked and fed. By now, we know that you can really cook, Because, Thank God, nobody ended up dead!"

(BC) How do you want to be remembered by the Bahamian people?

(FP) I would like that Christ be remembered. I would like that I remember the good folks of Eleuthera and Long Island. They are a blessing to me.

(BC) What part of The Bahamas will you take back with you?

(FP) In addition to some handmade art, the part that I will remember is the spiritual center of our folks, people who put God and Church first before all else, and their warmth to family, visitors and strangers alike.

(BC) What are your desires for the future of Archdiocese of Nassau?

(FP) That many young men and women would take the idea of vocation seriously, whether called to lay leadership, religious life, or the priesthood. The Archbishop deserves our best effort and support in making the Word and Eucharist present in this diffi-



cult world and time.

(BC) Where will your new assignment be?

(FP) I will be in Hawaii. My new assignment is Novice Master, which is basically the person in charge of the first year of religious life and formation. When you enter a religious community, you begin as a Novice. My hope is that we have enough vocations to build our religious community so that we could once again collaborate with the Archdiocese of Nassau.

(BC) Last words.

(FP) In all things give thanks. My last words would be thanks to God for the great gift of being with a people of faith, which I get to carry with me for the rest of my life. I am truly grateful!

IN HIS OWN WORDS



Fr. Gomes reflects on 20 year ministry in The Bahamas

ship and working at having the Parish of St. Joseph's become self-sufficient. These efforts go back to Frs. John Sullivan, Mike Kelly, Ben Folger, Stan Kolasa, Brien Marggraf, Chris Santangelo and myself. The development of lay leadership and parish self-sufficiency – Let us rejoice and be glad, the Lord has done great things – Let us also remember the members of the Benedictine Community of St. Augustine Monastery who founded and labored to grow St. Joseph's Parish and also Monsignor Preston Moss, the first Bahamian pastor of St. Joseph's. Also we remember the Sisters of Charity and the Sisters of St. Martin Monastery. Yes, we march on the shoulders of those who have gone before us.

FR. GOMES' LEADERSHIP FUNCTION AT ST. JOSEPH

My own style of leadership and where that came from, certainly goes back to the early 70's. I have taken this style of leadership and have developed it through study and prayer over the years. The working image – this working style of leadership was framed for me

when the eyes of the whole gathering were focused on where this first piece of cake was going to go. I also recall passing it on to one of the members in the Men's Ministry. That started a real bond not only with him but his entire family and with the whole family of St. Joseph's.

Soon after being introduced to the congregation of St. Joseph's I had the opportunity to meet with Bishop Burke and that was an

“The most enjoyable moments in The Bahamas and at St. Joseph has certainly been being a part of a vibrant, vibrant parish. I just enjoy parishioners.”

encouraging experience. I remember sharing my life and ministerial experiences at that time and a further gathering at the Hermitage for a meal and an opportunity to meet other priests. Soon after that, there was the monthly Pastoral Day and that provided the opportunity to get to meet so many priests and Religious who served in the Diocese. This was hopeful because I saw the enthusiasm of the clergy, the enthusiasm of the sisters and there were a good number of sisters and priests at that time back in 1983. So that was my introduction to the Diocese of Nassau.

When I reflect on the adjustments I had to make when I first came here - what comes to mind is driving on the right hand side of the road; having to pay close attention when children were speaking because they seemed to talk very fast; mass that lasted longer than the customary 45 minutes to an hour that I was used to; these come to mind immediately.

CONGREGATION OF SACRED HEARTS CONTRIBUTION TO BAHAMAS

From the very beginning of our SS.CC. presence here at St. Joseph's, the primary focus of our ministry has been to develop lay leader-

ship and working at having the Parish of St. Joseph's become self-sufficient. These efforts go back to Frs. John Sullivan, Mike Kelly, Ben Folger, Stan Kolasa, Brien Marggraf, Chris Santangelo and myself. The development of lay leadership and parish self-sufficiency – Let us rejoice and be glad, the Lord has done great things – Let us also remember the members of the Benedictine Community of St. Augustine Monastery who founded and labored to grow St. Joseph's Parish and also Monsignor Preston Moss, the first Bahamian pastor of St. Joseph's. Also we remember the Sisters of Charity and the Sisters of St. Martin Monastery. Yes, we march on the shoulders of those who have gone before us.

The most enjoyable moments in the Bahamas and here at the church of St. Joseph has certainly been, being a part of a vibrant, vibrant parish. I just enjoy parishioners. I enjoy people. I enjoy been part of team ministry. I enjoyed working with Msgr. Simeon Roberts, the Sisters of St. Joseph's in Canada, the ministerial team of lay people, Catherine Brown and Barbara Tynes, Sister Josephine of St. Martin Monastery, staff going back to Carmie Basden who was here for 39 or 40 years and Bernadette Ingraham. I enjoyed working with Deacon Taylor, who brings a lot of the history. It has been a joy working with the priests and sisters and deacons of the Archdiocese. Being in ministry with Archbishop Burke and with Archbishop Pinder (I rejoice in having our first Bahamian Bishop), this has been enriching for me, , also visiting and being welcomed into parishioners' homes.

PARISH GROWTH “MARTIN THE BUILDER”

When I think of highlights, some specific highlights of the time that I have been assigned here at St. Joseph's, I must begin by saying all highlights are connected with celebrating the parishioners of St. Joseph's Parish. A significant highlight was certainly having taken up the challenge that came from Bishop Burke. He gathered with parishioners from the different parishes in a town meeting kind of style - following extensive conversation it was decided that there would be the building of a few larger churches, reducing the number of Masses and thus being able to better utilize our priests. This had me reflecting on the building of our new church. In fact, October 2011 marks twelve years since the church was built. And I certainly believe that is a highlight. We were blessed. Our Parish Advisory Building Committee - all members of the parish - met for hours and hours. We travelled around looking at different churches. We studied liturgical layouts of churches. We studied documents on construction of churches.

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My assignment in The Bahamas began in 1983. My Congregation, The Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary (SS CC) have been in ministry in the Bahamas for fifty years. This year, 2011, marks fifty years when our priest arrived on the island of Abaco. At that time there had not been a resident priest and forty years ago this year our Congregation began staffing St. Joseph's Church on New Providence. This year our Congregation, because of our lack of personnel made some difficult decisions. One of the decisions that we have had to make has to do with our presence in the Bahamas. And after being here for fifty years, it was decided that we have to recall our members for reassignment in other areas that we serve.

EARLY DAYS

I have been here in the Bahamas, on two occasions, for a total of 20 years. I was first assigned here in 1983. I returned to the US in 1988 (Fr. Stan Kolas, SS.CC. took my place) and I was given a sabbatical for a year and a half. I returned to school full time at Seton Hall University in New Jersey and studied Pastoral Planning and also participated in a renewal program for priests and religious. I returned here in 1996 with again the same kind of enthusiasm that was present when I first arrived here in 1983.

When I first arrived in the Bahamas, I was blessed to follow Fr. Mike Kelly, SS.CC. who served here for twelve years that made my transition easy because of the work and ministry Fr. Kelly along with Fr. John Sullivan, SS.CC. and Fr. Ben Folger, SS.CC. had already accomplished. When I think back, soon after arriving at St. Joseph's, there was a reception that was coordinated by Fr. Kelly and the Parish Council. I can recall gathering with a large number of parishioners and being very warmly welcomed. That impressed me immediately. One of the things that I recall that I knew nothing about was the cutting of the cake and the distribution of the cake and who will receive the first piece of cake. I recall that very clearly because I was surprised

by Bishop Hubbert, Bishop of Albany, New York. When he became Bishop, he brought together his clergy and he talked about shifts in the images in priesthood and shifts of roles in priesthood. He talked about the priest in our day as being an orchestra leader, a conductor of the symphony. One who is not able to play all of the instruments, but is able to direct, to invite and to encourage and to affirm the players of the different instruments. He serves in the role as an orchestra leader. The image in terms of church has to do with the calling forth of gifts, calling forth the different gifts of our members of the parish, encouraging members to share their gifts. Sometimes that means helping people to realize that they are gifts and that they have gifts, because people, at times, can have such a negative self-image and feel that they have no gifts to offer. So there is a process that has to go on to help people realize that they are gift and that they have gifts and to share those gifts with one another, to share gifts beyond the parish to help build up the larger community. But that is a working image that I have, to call forth the gifts and be able to let the spirit work.

One of the phrases that continually comes out of my mouth and has for all the years that I have been here is that, “We are all in this



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We reviewed documents put out by our Archdiocese, and we studied documents from the universal church. We visited a number of churches; and met and met and met. We put together what we felt was something that would be a powerful worship space and that it would be within our budget. Initially, I recall that we were looking at doing our church in the “round”, a six or 8 sided building, and we drew plans for that and it looked like it could happen. Then when we took it for pricing, we found that it was way over budget — the cost of the roof was exorbitant. That was a real disappointment to me and to our committee, and so we had to go back to the drawing board.

We said wait a minute, we can have our pews in a circle — $\frac{3}{4}$ circle - and we can have a rectangular building. “So how do you put a circle in a square?” And we looked at that and had it designed and we did it. And we did it within our projected budget. I want to also acknowledge that a gift was given to our Parish by Archbishop Burke in the name of the Archdiocese towards the cost of our new Church. Again, celebrating the members of St. Joseph’s, because of the gift of sharing, time, talent, and treasure, our Church was paid for in a year and a half. Again, this is another example of members taking responsibility of being church and taking ownership of the church.

While our new Church was being built we had to ask ourselves how we would use the former Church. After doing a good deal of research and in an informal survey with a number of our elderly parishioners we decided that we needed to convert our former church into an Adult Day Care Centre. Again this was something we felt that was very much needed not only for the elderly of St.

Joseph’s but also for the elderly of the larger Community; so we moved in that direction. Again, I called on our Parish Advisory Building Committee to come together and look at how we could use our former Church as an Adult Day Care Center. We also formed a committee of parishioners with expertise in health care, along with Sister Cecilia Albury OSB, the director. It was very expensive to remodel the former Church and again because of the sacrifice and commitment of the parishioners of St. Joseph’s the remodeling of the former Church was paid for before it began. When we think about significant highlights, it’s a building, but yet we need to remember that this building provides a ministry of service to others. In fact, it is from the larger community (non-members of St. Joseph’s Parish) that most of the people who use our Adult Day Care Centre are from. I believe we might have one member of our Church who attends. Our parish subsidized this ministry. Again - an opportunity to reach out beyond ourselves.

Most recently, we completed another building - our new Parish Centre. A number of years ago we began talking about the building of a new Parish Centre. At that time there was a moratorium in our Archdiocese on building. However, I asked Archbishop Burke if we could begin saving money, looking to the future when it will be possible to build. He said, “Please do that.” So we began to do that with the vision, the hope, and the view that one-day in the future that we would be building a new Parish Centre. And we began raising funds for that. When we had saved enough (we felt), we asked permission of Archbishop Pinder and after consulting with his financial advisers, he gave us permission to build. Once again we called on our Parish Building Advisory Committee to begin developing plans to present to the architect.

We had looked at a building a number of years ago and felt we could replicate it for the projected budget we had established but from the time of our projection seven years prior to the building of our Parish Centre the cost had almost doubled. We had to obtain a loan from our Archdiocese. The loan was granted and we were given five years to repay the loan and I want to tell you that the loan was paid in less time. Again - a sign of parishioners of St. Joseph’s taking ownership of their church. A vision was set and the vision was turned into a reality. So we have these buildings, but buildings by themselves are only buildings. If they do not serve to help us grow as a faith filled people, if they do not help us to go beyond ourselves, to care for the larger communities of which we are a part of, then we do not need these buildings. They remain just buildings. But however, the two building that we have built and the one building we have remodeled are in service to our members and to the larger community of which St. Joseph’s is a part.

Significant highlights focusing around the efforts that were made in terms of building these buildings.

Highlights are seen in so many of our members who take on the roles of leadership, being so much involved in different ministries of our Parish. Liturgical Ministries, Choirs, Eucharistic Ministers, Liturgical Dance Ministry, the core committees: Ushers and Hospitality, Youth Ministry: Life teen, Marching Band, Girl Guides, Caring for the Needy – Soup Kitchen, Adult Day Care Centre, Parish Life Ministry, our Men’s Ministry, Women’s Auxiliary, Home Visitation Ministry, parishioners visiting parishioners, Welcoming Home Committee, the Legion of Mary, Faith Formation, Youth Religious Education, RCIA, Total Parish Faith Formation (where we are looking at and working at bringing all of the genera-

tions together to share life, to share faith, and to share stories in our parish), Parish Finance Council, Bazaar and Raffle Committee, Archdiocesan Appeal Committee, and those who help with Sunday collection.

Again, the number of ministries that in the Parish are all highlights – they all help to grow our church, help to grow our Catholic faith, and help to grow our Archdiocese.

Changes

When I think back to the first time that I was assigned here to St. Joseph’s in 1983, I think about some of the changes that I have experienced. Perhaps one of the strongest changes that I have experienced is that in the past I would walk through Bain Town, greet parishioners, visit parishioners and feel very safe and comfortable, certainly our roots are in Bain Town for our Parish. Safety was never a concern back then. But I have a safety concern – that is certainly a shift. A number of our old time parishioners have died, and there are fewer parishioners in that community, but yet we still have a good number. You don’t see persons sitting on the porch as you did in the past. And that, again, rises up a great challenge for all of us, in terms of what it means to be a neighbor, what it means to be a community, what it means to be concerned with one another. I have seen a growth in youth involvement.

Future of Archdiocese

It would be neat to come back to Nassau after a number of years and see more Bahamian priests, Bahamian Religious and Permanent Deacons. That would be one thing that I hope for as we move into the future. That is a major hope. It is also my hope that lay leadership intensifies across our Archdiocese. I would hope again that we would have sufficient personnel priests to staff all of our Parishes.

New assignment

I will be leaving the Bahamas the first week of November for Massachusetts. Soon after arriving in Massachusetts, I will leave to attend two weeks of SS.CC. community meetings in Hawaii. Following that meeting, I will have a date to have one of my knees replaced (both have to be replaced) and once I have recovered from the knee surgery, I will have a six months Sabbatical. I will be reassigned after the Sabbatical. I do not know where I will be reassigned but it will be in one of our SS.CC. Community Ministries. I do expect that I will be back for visits from time to time.

Fr. Ambie celebrates 50th



“From the moment I was ordained a priest, all I wanted to do is to be of service to people.”

- Monsignor Ambrose MacKinnon,

As a youngster, he knew nothing about priests or the priesthood. At that time he only knew that they all wore black, a “little white thing” on their necks and he saw them on the altar on Sunday mornings when he attended church.

However, it was one “man in black” in particular that helped young John Ambrose MacKinnon’s vocation come about - that was fifty years ago.

When Monsignor MacKinnon sat down with The Bahama Catholic recently for a chat to reflect on his Ministry of 50 “terrific” years in the priesthood, he shared the story about a time as a very young boy playing with friends in a place they should not have been, when a man dressed in all black appeared, waved and smiled, then disappeared.

This priest had pastored the parish in which he attended all of his childhood years and he prays for him everyday. “It was something special about that priest,” Monsignor recalls, secretly in my mind I told myself, “That’s who I would like to be”.

From the age of four, Monsignor remembers admiring this priest, but never had a conversation with him until he himself was ordained a priest in 1961. Monsignor describes this priest as his mentor and a powerful man of God who knew everyone by name (a personality trait Fr. Monsignor has assumed).

Monsignor MacKinnon was born in Inverness, Nova Scotia, Canada on August 8th, 1932. He studied for the priesthood at St. Augustine’s Seminary in Toronto and St. Francis Xavier Seminary, Antigonish, Nova Scotia, where The Most Rev. William E. Power ordained him on August 20th, 1961.

A member of the Scarboro Foreign Missions, (SFM) Monsignor’s first pastoral assignment was the Dominican Republic in 1962. The following year, he was transferred to St. Vincent, The Grenadines where he remained until 1974. Later that year, he was assigned to The Bahamas.

After just returning from a vacation, Monsignor recalls receiving a call from the Superior General who asked if he would con-

sider a change of assignment. Committed to his religious vows, Monsignor says, “I didn’t become a priest for myself, so without hesitation I accepted my new appointment.”

The Superior General informed Monsignor that his appointment would be for one year - that was 37 years ago.

His first assignment was St. Thomas More Parish. He also served at Holy Family and St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. In 1988 he was assigned to Mary, Star of the Sea Parish, Freeport, Grand Bahama, where he has served for the past twenty-three years.

Over the 50-year span, Monsignor admits that there were many challenges, but never anything to deter him away from his commitment to the Lord and His people. “From the moment I was ordained a priest, all I wanted to do is to be of service to people.”

Fr. Ambie, as he is fondly called, is a people’s priest. Throughout his ministry, his warm character, genuine concern, and spiritual guidance have touched the lives of all.

In fact, he notes that it gives him great joy and satisfaction to help those in need and to comfort or just be there for and to encourage others. “It’s a joy to serve.”

As a compassionate and loving soul, Monsignor believes we should always lift people up and encourage them to be faithful to the Lord and one another.

The Eucharist has been the centre of Monsignor’s spiritual journey. He says it is a privilege celebrating the Eucharist. “This is where I get my strength. It has kept me going and still keeps me going as an “elderly gentleman,” he says with a laugh.

He maintains that, “once you believe in and receive the Eucharist, you cannot help but have a tremendous relationship with the Lord. He refers to what St. Augustine said about receiving the Eucharist, “May I become what I have received.” Further, he commented on Jesus’ words, “you receive me, I will remain in you if you will remain in me.”

anniversary as a priest



TOP PHOTO: Monsignor 1st photo as a priest (at right). Also pictured at left is Fr. Ronald MacFarlane, former assistant pastor of Mary, Star of the Sea.

Continued from page 10

This understanding, reverence, and love for the Eucharist has empowered Monsignor to walk the spiritual journey and be that light of God in the communities he has served.

Monsignor recalls many changes over the past 37 years in The Archdiocese of Nassau, mainly the growth in local priests and deacons.

“When I came to The Bahamas there was one local priest – Monsignor Preston Moss. “Today we have thirteen, a Bahamian Archbishop, fourteen Deacons and many dedicated laypersons that are all making tremendous contributions to the Church. This development is a wonderful step in the right direction.”

It is Monsignor’s desire that this growth continues to develop.

Nevertheless, he is still concerned that there are only a few Missions left in The Bahamas. Noting that there is nothing wrong with others (missions) coming here to serve, he urged that the local people have to now take on more responsibility.

Mainly he says, “I would like to see more young Bahamian men present themselves for the priesthood. He encourages young seminarians to stay in prayer, and stressed that they “adopt a daily prayer life; without one...forget it.” In preparation, he says to pray, attend Mass and receive the Eucharist every single day, not only on Sundays.” This should be the lifestyle of every priest, he says.

When asked how he, as a priest, builds up or encourages a Christian family, his answer was simply, “Home is where your story begins”. Family life is so important for the development of a person, if they are to make any type of positive contribution to society it has to start from the home.”

Reflecting on his 37-year ministry in The Bahamas, Monsignor says one of the highlights has been the privilege to serve the wonderful people of The Bahamas and to share his love for God.

On Friday, September 30th Archbishop Patrick Pinder, Clergy of The Archdiocese, and parishioners from Grand Bahama and New Providence celebrated Monsignor’s 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood with a Mass at Mary, Star of the Sea Church. Following the Mass, the celebration continued at a dinner reception in the Wallace Groves Auditorium.

Monsignor Ambie, we wish you many more wonderful and fulfilling years of dedicated service to Jesus, His Church and His people.

Did you know Monsignor...

... was named Chaplain to His Holiness Pope John Paul II on October 28th, 1999 (and that he is often mistaken for Pope John)

.... was Regional Superior to the Bahama Missions Community on December 3, 1975.

... favorite scripture is – “Fear is useless, what is needed is trust.”

...favorite Bahamian food is peas and rice and grouper

...favorite sports are ice hockey and baseball





VIRTUS: "Protecting God's Children" program launched



GROUP DISCUSSIONS - Pastors and Teachers participate in group discussion at the recently launched Virtus: "Protecting God's Children" Program at the Emmaus Centre on September 28th, 2011. Top left: Sister Josephine Albury, Fr. Alain Laverne, Fr. Adler Vallon and Virtus local co-ordinator, D'Arcy Rahming. Top right: Fathers Thomas Brislin, Douglas Grant, Glen Nixon and Kendrick Forbes.



Mrs. Mahalia Paul, (left) AEC regional co-ordinator for Protecting God's Children Program chats with Ann Cover and Dr. Sonia Lunn, local co-ordinator.



Teachers from primary and high school in group discussion.

Continued from page 3

When we hear of child sexual abuse, we quickly become angry or outraged, but there is hope and a lot we as a community can do about it.

Comments:

Having come from the Archdiocese of Boston where the sexual abuse crisis was first exposed I have participated in Virtus training before and have found it very helpful. The Church should be commended for implementing training programs like Virtus to ensure the protection of our children. Virtus, and programs like it, help educate us all to recognize the signs of abuse and give us guidance on how to respond. The Archdiocese of Nassau has taken a huge step toward ensuring the safety of our children by educating clergy, teachers, counselors, and all those who work with children. Establishing policies that make it difficult for abusers to act out in the first place is ideal, but then to also teach us how to recognize the signs of abuse, and respond appropriately, goes a long way to addressing abuse of minors.

-Deacon Frank Tremblay, Administrator St. John

Chrysostom, Fresh Creek, Andros

The program was enlightening, informative, and emotional. It always makes me angry when adults take advantage of our children. We are here to protect them. The workshop was also a timely one.

- Donna Saunders, School Nurse
St. Augustine's College

The presentation was timely. The program is definitely needed. However, I don't think it should be limited to the Archdiocese; it should be shared with all churches, schools and youth organizations. We are eager to learn more and to begin to train others.

- Marici M. Thompson, Guidance Counselor,
St. Augustine's College

The Virtus program is undoubtedly a step in the right direction. This program broadens the scope of well meaning and well-respected adults to serve as advocates for those who are often rendered voiceless. Perhaps most enlightening about this movement, is the fact that Virtus is not intended to be a program for

victims, but rather a preventative mechanism that does not allow sexual abuse to manifest itself in any form. Certainly, from a counselor's perspective the introduction of this program, is as timely as it is necessary. Indeed it is also most gratifying to know that all Archdiocesan Pastoral Teams, as well as Catholic Board of Education Administrators, Guidance Counselors and School Nurses have been initiated into the planning of a vibrant Virtus Program in The Bahamas. Virtus training afforded us with an opportunity to grow and learn about potential perpetrators who at a glance seem harmless, and to raise awareness with regards to whom and to what our children are being exposed on a daily basis. We recognize that this is the initial stage of the program, but certainly it is a gleaming ray of hope, from which many benefits can be derived for both present and future generations that uphold and uplift their God-given dignity.

- June Hutcheson, Guidance Counselor,
Aquinas College

By embracing this initiative and implementing this program The Archdiocese of Nassau is now a part of the solution to "Protecting God's Children".

Students urged to be thankful for opportunities at Holy Childhood Association Mass

SCHOOL NEWS

The annual Holy Childhood Association Mass was celebrated at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral on Thursday, October 27th, 2011. The Mass was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Alain Laverne, Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies for the Archdiocese of Nassau, and concelebrated by Deacon Peter Rahming and other clergy of the Archdiocese. Thousands of students and administrators from various primary schools around the Archdiocese attended.

The annual Mass offers an opportunity to schools to donate funds in support of less fortunate children in other parts of the world, honoring HCA's motto, "Children Helping Children." This year's offering was over \$1,000.00.

The Mass was especially inclusive as all schools participated in the Mass in various ways. Our Lady of the Holy Souls provided the commentator, while Xavier's and Sts. Francis and Joseph served the altar and contributed to the choir. Students from St. Thomas More and St. Cecelia proclaimed the first reading and the responsorial psalm, respectively. Sts. Francis and Joseph offered the Prayers of the Faithful.

St. Bede's presented the gifts (bread and wine). Some students dressed to represent less fortunate children in Africa, Asia, Americas (including the Caribbean/Bahamas), Oceania, and Europe.

Fr. Mel Taylor, OSB, homilist, reminded the children that they belonged to two families – the family defined by the name each child bears and the larger "I Am" family – God's family. He urged the students to always remember that larger connection by lending support to and praying for their brothers and sisters all over the world – especially the underprivileged. Fr. Mel also reminded them to thank God for the opportunities they are afforded in The Bahamas. The Mass concluded with a presentation to Fr. Mel, from a student from Queen of Peace English Institute.

Fr. Laverne thanked the students, Archbishop Patrick C. Pinder, Mrs. Claudette Rolle, Director of Catholic Education, Fr. Glen Nixon, Saint Francis Xavier Cathedral Rector, and others for ensuring that provisions were made for yet another memorable event.



Students representing countries after Mass with Fr. Alain Laverne, Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies, (back left) Deacon Peter Rahming, Fr. Roger Madrazo and Fr. Adler Vallon.

ACES: "dreams can be achieved with hard work, dedication and discipline"

Trevor Berry, was recently celebrated at his alma mater, Aquinas College. The 2001 graduate and accomplished high jump medalist was honoured by the administration, teachers, and students at a special assembly at Loyola Hall.

Mrs. Elizabeth Morrison, his former teacher was among those who spoke of Trevor's journey to the accomplished young man that he is today.

She described Trevor, as one of the quieter, unassuming, well-mannered and humble students in the school. "He was not often perturbed or involved in many activities on campus."

In fact, she noted, "many of us, his teachers, had to nudge him every now and again to get his attention. This easy-going attitude and his dreamy eyes rightfully earned Trevor the alias, "Sleepy".



However, beneath the quiet veneer, Mrs. Morrison pointed out that Trevor's athletic abilities were taking root and from there it was clear that he possessed some leaping abilities - an avid high jumper was in bloom. "Trevor reserved his passion for sports and as the years progressed, so did his skills, his determination and his energy."

She added that one thing remained constant in Trevor, and that is his humble spirit. "Amidst all the medals and accolades of those early years, Trevor remained calm, focused and disciplined."

Further, she believes that the virtues of goodness and discipline that have become

Trevor's hallmark were not only inculcated at Aquinas, but were first cultivated at home."

In his thank you remarks, Trevor told students that it was at Aquinas College that he was taught the importance of Discipline during an impressionable time in his life.

He also told them that education is key! And that any goal is attainable...whether it's a Lawyer, Doctor, Architect or Pilot you can achieve your dream with hard work, dedication and discipline. "Success depends upon previous preparation, and without such preparation there is sure to be failure"

Our Lady's School students greets the Prime Minister



The Hon. Hubert Ingraham, Prime Minister of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas was greeted recently outside house of assembly by students of Our Lady's Catholic School.

-BIS Photo Peter Ramsay

Seventeen participate in BASIC retreat



On Saturday, November 12th, 2011, seventeen young people participated in a B.A.S.I.C. (Brothers And Sisters In Christ) retreat, under the theme "We are one in the Spirit". B.A.S.I.C. is a one-day retreat for young people 12 to 15 years old. During the retreat they participated in talks, activities and discussions on self-esteem, val-



ues, relationships and sexuality, while also making time for fun and getting to know each other.

BASIC retreat in Freeport, Grand Bahama - December 17th, 2011.



Deacon Frank works with (left to right) Makisha Cargill from Cargill Creek, Timothy Neely from Fresh Creek, Kirk Bain from Mastic Point, and Jayson Bennet from AUTECH while Jay Cartwright (standing) assists other students at the rear table.

Confirmation students in Andros participate in "Day of Renewal" retreat

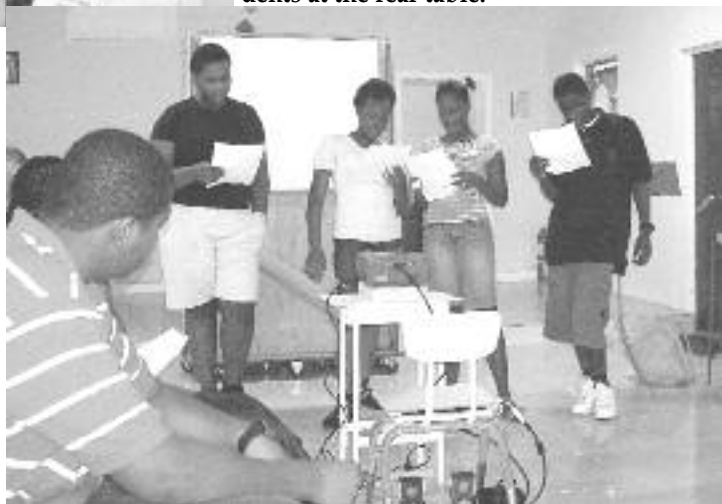
Four different faith communities on Andros sent their Confirmation Students to an all day Saturday "Day of Renewal" October 29, at the newly renovated Fr. Gabriel Roerig Parish Center in Calabash Bay. Mr. Jay Cartwright, Director of the Archdiocesan Youth Office joined Deacon Frank Tremblay and his wife Virginia, to lead a presentation that included prayer, song, videos, and some very challenging games that progressed from the discovery of God's love, to our need to walk with Jesus, become friends with Jesus, and finally one of His disciples.

Students arrived early Saturday morning from all over Andros, including the AUTECH Navy Base, St. John Chrysostom in Fresh Creek, Christ the King in Cargill Creek, and Our Lady of Hope in Mastic Point, the newest Catholic community on Andros.

Mr. Cartwright started the morning with songs and games to 'break the ice'. He then introduced the theme of growing in our relationship with Jesus using videos and projects that helped the students discover their own unique faith journey toward becoming a disciple of Jesus as they progress towards Confirmation.

At the end of the day everyone had come closer together and on the drive home students were already asking when they could do this again. One mother confided to Deacon Frank that her son said the day was, 'off the chain'. If all goes according to plan, a second day is being planned for the spring, prior to the reception of Confirmation.

Part of the program included each team making a formal presentation to the entire group. Pictured from left to right are: Lloyddeka Minnis (Fresh Creek) Savannah Ford (Fresh Creek) Sanchez Bowleg (Cargill Creek), and Travis Neely (Fresh Creek) present the findings of their discussion group.



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And the winner is...

When Gerald Bowe was approached to buy a raffle ticket for Holy Family's Bazaar for \$20.00 his response was "all of that?" but little that he knew it was the lucky ticket. He won the grand prize - a 2011 Ford Edge (with sync system and cameras) !!! Bowe says he who usually buy raffle tickets to assist our local charities and churches, therefore this ticket was just another ticket." I never won anything before, so I was in complete disbelief when I received word that I won - I actually had to search for the ticket stub." Bowe is pictured (at centre) receiving his car keys from Fr. Tom Brislin, pastor and Ephraim Cargill, Bazaar Committee member.



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Winners of the 8th annual All Catholic Basketball Tournament

This year marked the 8th annual All Catholic Basketball Tournament in the memories of Deacon Leviticus 'Uncle Lou' Adderley and Vincent Ferguson with a basketball tournament. The tournament began in 2003 as a tribute to the two men who have dedicated their lives to the growth and development of sports and education in the country and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese. This year's tournament was on October 13-16, 2011, and officially opened by Archbishop Patrick Pinder, STD. In the senior division, St. Anselm's Parish placed first, St. Francis Xavier, second. In the junior division; first place winners were St. Joseph's Parish, followed by St. Bede's Parish. Deacon Andrew Burrows, tournament co-ordinator says this year was by far the best tournament competition wise.



St. Francis Xavier Cathedral senior boys receiving 2nd place trophy from Fr. Anselm Russell, (left) also pictured at right is Fred "Papa" Smith, coach.



St. Joseph Church junior boys 1st place winners. Kevin Moxey, coach (holding trophy) and Fr. Anselm Russell are pictured with winner team.



MVP AWARD

Fr. Anselm Russell, presents, Philip Davis of St. Joseph's Church with MVP award.



BEST SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

Donte Rolle of St Bede's Church receives 'Best Sportsmanship Award' Trophy from Fr. Anselm Russell.

Msgr Simeon Roberts of St. Cecilia's Catholic Church on a Marian Pilgrimage to..

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St. Cecilia's Catholic Church



Msgr Simeon Roberts



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June 10-17, 2012



Theme: Eucharist - Communion with Christ and with one another

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Msgr. Alfred C. Culmer, local coordinator
Telephone 242-325-8150 or email: alfredcculmer@coralwave.com



Pope Benedict declares a “Year of Faith”

(October 11, 2012 - November 24, 2013)

Pope Benedict XVI has declared a “Year of Faith” which will begin in October 2012, the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council on October 16th, 2011. The Year of Faith will run from October 11, 2012, until November 24, 2013, which is the Solemnity of Christ the King.

The following is Pope Benedict XVI Apostolic letter declaring a “Year of Faith” . (Part 1)

1. The “door of faith” (*Acts* 14:27) is always open for us, ushering us into the life of communion with God and offering entry into his Church. It is possible to cross that threshold when the word of God is proclaimed and the heart allows itself to be shaped by transforming grace. To enter through that door is to set out on a journey that lasts a lifetime. It begins with baptism (cf. *Rom* 6:4), through which we can address God as Father, and it ends with the passage through death to eternal life, fruit of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, whose will it was, by the gift of the Holy Spirit, to draw those who believe in him into his own glory (cf. *Jn* 17:22). To profess faith in the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – is to believe in one God who is Love (cf. *1 Jn* 4:8): the Father, who in the fullness of time sent his Son for our salvation; Jesus Christ, who in the mystery of his death and resurrection redeemed the world; the Holy Spirit, who leads the Church across the centuries as we await the Lord’s glorious return.

2. Ever since the start of my ministry as Successor of Peter, I have spoken of the need to rediscover the journey of faith so as to shed ever clearer light on the joy and renewed enthusiasm of the encounter with Christ. During the homily at the Mass marking the inauguration of my pontificate I said: “The Church as a whole and all her Pastors, like Christ, must set out to lead people out of the desert, towards the place of life, towards friendship with the Son of God, towards the One who gives us life, and life in abundance.”^[1] It often happens that Christians are more concerned for the social, cultural and political consequences of their commitment, continuing to think of the faith as a self-evident presupposition for life in society. In reality, not only can this presupposition no longer be taken for granted, but it is often openly denied.^[2] Whereas in the past it was possible to recognize a unitary cultural matrix, broadly accepted in its appeal to the content of the faith and the values inspired by it, today this no longer seems to be the case in large swathes of society, because of a profound crisis of faith that has affected many people.

3. We cannot accept that salt should become tasteless or the light be kept hidden (cf. *Mt* 5:13-16). The people of today can still experience the need to go to the well, like the Samaritan woman, in order to hear Jesus, who

invites us to believe in him and to draw upon the source of living water welling up within him (cf. *Jn* 4:14). We must rediscover a taste for feeding ourselves on the word of God, faithfully handed down by the Church, and on the bread of life, offered as sustenance for his disciples (cf. *Jn* 6:51). Indeed, the teaching of Jesus still resounds in our day with the same power: “Do not labour for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life” (*Jn* 6:27). The question posed by his listeners is the same that we ask today: “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” (*Jn* 6:28). We know Jesus’ reply: “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent” (*Jn* 6:29). Belief in Jesus Christ, then, is the way to arrive definitively at salvation.

4. In the light of all this, I have decided to announce a Year of Faith. It will begin on 11 October 2012, the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, and it will end on the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King, on 24 November 2013. The starting date of 11 October 2012 also marks the twentieth anniversary of the publication of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, a text promulgated by my Predecessor, Blessed John Paul II, ^[3] with a view to illustrating for all the faithful the power and beauty of the faith. This document, an authentic fruit of the Second Vatican Council, was requested by the Extraordinary Synod of Bishops in 1985 as an instrument at the service of catechesis^[4] and it was produced in collaboration with all the bishops of the Catholic Church. Moreover, the theme of the General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops that I have convoked for October 2012 is “The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith”. This will be a good opportunity to usher the whole Church into a time of particular reflection and rediscovery of the faith. It is not the first time that the Church has been called to celebrate a Year of Faith. My venerable Predecessor the Servant of God Paul VI announced one in 1967, to commemorate the martyrdom of Saints Peter and Paul on the 19th centenary of their supreme act of witness. He thought of it as a solemn moment for the whole Church to make “an authentic and sincere profession of the same faith”; moreover, he wanted this to be confirmed in a way that was “individual and collective, free and conscious, inward and outward, humble and frank”.^[5] He thought that in this way the whole Church could reappropriate “exact knowledge of the faith, so as to reinvigorate it, purify it, confirm it, and confess it”.^[6] The great upheavals of that



year made even more evident the need for a celebration of this kind. It concluded with the *Credo of the People of God*,^[7] intended to show how much the essential content that for centuries has formed the heritage of all believers needs to be confirmed, understood and explored ever anew, so as to bear consistent witness in historical circumstances very different from those of the past.

5. In some respects, my venerable predecessor saw this Year as a “consequence and a necessity of the postconciliar period”.^[8] fully conscious of the grave difficulties of the time, especially with regard to the profession of the true faith and its correct interpretation. It seemed to me that timing the launch of the Year of Faith to coincide with the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council would provide a good opportunity to help people understand that the texts bequeathed by the Council Fathers, in the words of Blessed John Paul II, “have lost nothing of their value or brilliance. They need to be read correctly, to be widely known and taken to heart as important and normative texts of the Magisterium, within the Church’s Tradition ... I feel more than ever in duty bound to point to the Council as *the great grace bestowed on the Church in the twentieth century*: there we find a sure compass by which to take our bearings in the century now beginning.”^[9] I would also like to emphasize strongly what I had occasion to say concerning the Council a few months after my election as Successor of Peter: “if we interpret and implement it guided by a right hermeneutic, it can be and can become increasingly powerful for the ever necessary renewal of the Church.”^[10]

Our Lady's of the Holy Souls celebrates anniversary

" Keeping the Flame of Christ Alive for 85 years"

1926-2011

A brief history

In November 1926, seed Catholics were drawn from other parishes in New Providence, and Our Lady of the Holy Souls Roman Catholic Church was planted as a chapel in the city of Nassau with R. Hilderbrand Eickhoff, OSB as the congregation's Priest, Pastor, Servant and Shepherd.

By 1932, the growing faith community's Chapel was bursting at its seams. Consequently, Fr. Arnold Mondlock, OSB guided the construction of additional worship space. The building's expansion was such that Our Lady's was the preferred venue, in particular, for large funerals. Our Lady's Parish bell, consistent as a time-piece and an invitation to worship, continues to signal our commitment to stirring Christ's Spirit among residents of the community that it serves.

During the late 1960s, Fr. Patrick Holmes spearheaded massive renovations to accommodate the relocation of the altar after Vatican II; by the early 1970s, the original wooden floor was changed to concrete and one hundred pews were added to accommodate growth. For many years thereafter Our Lady's was the largest church in the Diocese. Ordinations to the Priesthood, etc. took place there (including the consecration of Fr. Paul Leonard Hagarthy, OSB as Bishop of Nassau on October 19th, 1950) and Our Lady's was often referred to as "The Cathedral in the South." Mr. Leo Lundy donated the pipe organ in 1976.

In 2003, extensive renovations were under-



taken under the leadership of Fr. Michael Kelly, SS.CC. This project included the addition of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, St. Damien Chapel, a Baptismal Pool, the reorientation of the general sanctuary and installation of air conditioning. In 2009, the parish dedicated its new organ in honour of Mr. Eric Cash, who had served as the parish organist for over 70 years.

A COMMUNITY OF SERVICE AND SPIRIT

In January 1927, the Sisters of Charity with an enrolment of 56 students started Our Lady's School. Today, there are around 400 students who continue to generate success stories in academics, sports and culture.

During the 1950s, Fr. Marcian Peters, OSB and Fr. Cornelius Osendorf, OSB started the Holy Name Society for men, while the

Sisters of Charity formed the Sodality for women (now known as the Women's Auxiliary). Fr. Cornelius introduced the Legion of Mary and Fr. Marcian Peters also organized a credit union and introduced basketball and cricket to the community.

Up to the late 1960's, the Sisters of Charity who served at Our Lady's had organized a programme which provided the community with basic food items, clothing and potable water, carrying on the tradition of founder St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Within the parish Mr. Reuben Hamilton organized the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and through this ministry, the tradition still continues with the addition of a soup kitchen on Saturdays and Christmas packages for the needy. Two further services, which are provided to the wider community, are a hot lunch served by the parish

every Wednesday and the Saint Damian Banquet held on the last Saturday of each month.

In 1993, in view of its expanding outreach ministries, Our Lady's New Parish Centre was opened.

Reaching far beyond Our Lady's boundaries, the diocese established the Marian Clinic in the building that later housed the Hardecker Clinic for Children on Deveaux Street. After the latter's closure, that same building was used by the diocese to operate the YEAST programme; today (commencing October 2011), it still offers the community service through the government's Urban Renewal Programme.

During the past 85 years many priests have given faithful service to Our Lady of the Holy Souls Parish, promoting the faith and doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church and thereby making most significant contributions not only to the parish but also to the Archdiocese. Fr. Alain Laverne became the 20th pastor in April 2010.

A Thanksgiving Mass to celebrate Our Lady's 85th anniversary was held on November 13, 2011. Archbishop Patrick C. Pinder, STD, Archbishop of Nassau was the main celebrant. A luncheon followed at the Wyndham Hotel, where twelve members were honoured. (see honourees on page 24).

Priests and Deacons who served

1926 - Rev. Arnold Mondloch, OSB
 1935- 1939 - Rev. Quintin Dittberner, OSB
 1939 - Rev. Charles Blesch
 1942-1951 - Rev. Marcian Peters, OSB
 1951 - Rev. Nicholas Kremer, OSB
 1954 - Very Rev. Cornelious Osendorf, OSB
 1957 - Very Rev. Cornelious Osendorf, OBS, Rev. Charels Coakley
 1960 - Rev. Charles Coakley, Rev. Andre Brissett, OSB
 1962- Very Rev. George Foisey, Rev. James Cunningham, Rev. Sansaricq, Very Rev. C. Quinquis
 1963- Rev. John Prinzing, Rev. Benjamin Collins
 1964 - Rev. Preston Moss
 1965 - Rev. George Wolf, OSB, Rev. Timothy Sullivan
 1966- Rev. George Wolf, OSB, Rev. Marcian Peters, OSB
 1969 - Rev. George Wolf, OSB, Rev. Patrick Holmes, Rev. Daniel Cernauskas
 1969- Rev. Patrick Holmes, Rev. Joseph Perna
 1971- Rev. Patrick Holmes, Rev. James Smith

1973 - Deacon Peter Rahming, Deacon Lawrence Bethel
 1974 - Rev. Holmer Bethel
 1976 - Rev. Alfred Culmer, Rev. Patrick Holmes, Deacon Leviticus Adderley
 1978 - Rev. Patrick Holmes, Rev. Thomas Buyers
 1980 - Rev. Silvan Bromenskenkel, OSB, Rev. Patrick Pinder
 1981 - Rev. Silvan Bromenskenkel, OSB, Rev. John Johnson
 1984 - Rev. Remy David, Rev. John Johnson
 1985 - Rev. Remy David, Deacon Peter Rahming
 1986-1990 - Rev. Christopher Grannell, SSCC, Rev. James Sheehan, Deacon Peter Rahming
 1990-1991 - Deacon John Leahey, SSCC
 1991 - Rev. John Johnson
 1999 - Rev. Michael Kelly, SSCC, Deacon Peter Rahming
 2000-2003-2010 - Rev. Michael Kelly, SSCC, Deacon Peter Rahming, Deacon Maxwell Johnson
 2010 - Fr. Alain Laverne, Deacon Peter Rahming, Deacon Maxwell Johnson

85th anniversary honourees



Eriq Christian Ernest Ingraham - was baptized into the Catholic faith and has yet to miss an early morning Mass on Sundays. A young usher at the parish, Eriq enjoys his work at Our Lady's and he even hopes one day to become a priest.



Oniel Cameron Goffe - Since 1996, Oniel has given faithful service as an Altar Server at the 6.30 Mass on Sunday mornings. For the past seven years he has been employed at Bahamas Bus and Truck Co., Ltd. in the Service Department.



Violet Mortimer Beneby - has been a member for more than 60 years. She seldom misses a Sunday Mass unless she is ill, which is very rare, or visits another church. Although a fun-loving person, she is stern, and has firm beliefs in God.



Marcia Jane Mortimer - has been a faithful member of Our Lady's Parish all of her life, attends Sunday and Weekday Masses regularly and has served in various areas of ministry, such as Parish Council Secretary. She is currently serving as a Member of the Fair Committee & Stall Holder, CCD Kindergarten Teacher, Décor and Liturgical Committee Member.



Teresine Minnis - is a member of the Youth and Young Adults Ministry, Scouting Programme, Choir, the Parish Pastoral Council, at Our Lady's. Teresine is also a member of the Catholic Archdiocesan Youth Council and a certified member of the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture Youth Leadership Programme.



Valderez Susanna Miller - is an active member of Our Lady's Church. She is a member of the Youth and Young Adults Group, the 10.30 a.m. Choir, a Lector. On the Archdiocesan level, she is a member of the SEARCH Retreat Team and was the Youth Representative on the Diocesan 50th Anniversary Committee.



Patricia Cathrina Whitfield - was baptized into the Catholic faith community at the age of three months and to this day, her faith has been nurtured through the Catholic education system, having obtained her early education at Our Lady's School and her high school education at Aquinas College.



Barbara Reckley - has been active member of Our Lady's Church from a very young age reading the scriptures, ushering and acting in plays. She presently serves as a lector and assists with preparation for the St. Damien Banquet.



Mizpah Elizabeth Rolle - has been a member of Our Lady's Parish for many years, She uses her melodious voice as a member of the 6.30 a.m. Choir and she is actively involved in the Ladies Auxiliary. As a patriotic Bahamian, Mizpah is a member of the Bahamas Mothers' Club.



Samuel (Fuzzy) Saunders - became a member of Our Lady's Church through the R.C.I.A. Programme and was baptized in 2004. He serves as an altar server and hospitality minister and is a member of the Young Adults Group. Further, he is a member of the Knights of Columbus #10415 and a former member of the 17th Bahamas Boys Scouts.



Joseph Emmanuel Whyms - A Roman Catholic from birth, Joseph is a active member of Our Lady's Church. He was baptized at St. Rita's Catholic Church in 1939 by Fr. Gabriel, OSB and confirmed by the Abbot. He is also a member of Aurora Lodge, of which he is a Past District Grand Master.



Rudolph Seymour - a church member for 63 years. He has served as an altar boy for twelve years. He has been a part of a number of organizations including the (C.Y.O.), Catholic Young Organization; an all-male inter-diocese for young males, a member of the Men's Group. Mr. Seymour was a part of the Catholic Marching Band and St. Francis Band where he shared his drumming talents. He is also a member of the Fair Committee.