

THE CATHOLIC ISLANDER

VOL. 25, NO. 5

OCTOBER 2009

A Newsletter of the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands

INSIDE EXCLUSIVES

- *Helping the Homeless
- *The Month of the Rosary
- *Bishop Bevard's Itinerary
- *News from the Parishes
- *Catholic Education News
- *Listings of Coming Events
- *Página de noticias en

COMMITTEES FORMED FOR CATHEDRAL RESTORATION



The Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral Restoration Committee has formed two subcommittees to prepare for phase two of the restoration of the cathedral and its rectories on St. Thomas.

A Physical Plant Subcommittee will review the completed work and set deadlines for completion of phase two. In this phase, the church will be made water tight. A new roof will be constructed, supporting columns will be repaired and strengthened, and the underground stream damaging the foundation of the structure will be diverted.

A Fundraising Subcommittee will communicate with past donors to acknowledge their contributions, report on the use of those funds, outline phase two and request additional donations. The subcommittee also will pursue grants and organize fundraising events.

Pictured above, Fr. Janvier Sidjeu, parochial vicar at the cathedral, sawed and removed the rotted wood floor of one of the rooms in the rectory in mid-September, exposing the bedrock underneath. He has since constructed a new floor and wall.

BISHOP BEVARD CONSECRATES CHURCH



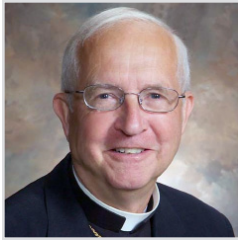
The Most Rev. Herbert A. Bevard, Bishop of the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, consecrated Ss. Joachim and Ann Church on St. Croix on September 20 at the 9:30 a.m. Mass.

Formerly known as the Joachim Center, the 750-seat space built by Msgr. Michael Kosak, pastor, has held the principal Mass within the St. Ann Church compound each Sunday since July 1997. This summer, the center was remodeled to introduce an area for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, an altar rail and a tabernacle within the sanctuary. With the dedication, the center became Ss. Joachim and Ann Church.

The original, historical 200-seat St. Ann Church, founded in 1823, has returned to its original status as St. Ann Chapel and will continue to be used regularly.

Pictured above, left to right, are Fr. Simon Peter Opira, Parochial Vicar, Bishop Bevard and Msgr. Kosak at the altar during the Mass. Pictured below, a view of the church from the parking lot.





Notes from the Bishop's Desk

BISHOP BEVARD'S OCTOBER 2009 CALENDAR

Sunday, October 4, Mission Appeal, St. Agnes Church, Sellersville, Pennsylvania.

Saturday and Sunday, October 10-11, Mission Appeal, St. Cornelius Church, Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania.

Tuesday, October 20, 10:00 a.m., St. Thomas/St. John Deanery meeting, Catholic Chancery, St. Thomas.

Wednesday, October 21, 10:00 a.m., St. Croix Deanery meeting, St. Joseph Church, St. Croix.

Saturday, October 24, 11:00 a.m., Retreat for the Secular Order Discalced Carmelites, Light of Christ Retreat Center, St. Croix.

Sunday, October 25, 7:00 & 10:00 a.m., Mass, St. Joseph Church, St. Croix.

REST IN PEACE

Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Myrna Scantlebury, mother of Very Rev. Neil Scantlebury, pastor of Holy Family Church on St. Thomas. Ms. Scantlebury died of illness in Barbados on September 1 and was buried on September 8. Bishop Herbert Bevard and Msgr. Jerome Feudjio represented the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands at the wake and funeral Mass.

BISHOP BEVARD CELEBRATES PATRONAL MASS



Bishop Herbert Bevard celebrated the Patronal Mass of Holy Cross Church on St. Croix on September 13. Pictured above, the procession began with Deacon Ulric Benjamin, followed by Fr. Kenneth Gaddy, CSSR, pastor, and Bishop Bevard.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

Parishioners across the Virgin Islands will be asked to contribute to a second collection for the missions at Mass on October 17-18. World Mission Sunday gathers support for the pastoral and evangelization programs and needs of more than 1,150 mission dioceses in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and remote regions of Latin America. The funds gathered on World Mission Sunday are distributed in the pope's name by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, a Pontifical Mission Society.

HAITIAN OUTREACH

Although the number of Haitian immigrants has grown rapidly in the Virgin Islands in the past decade, the number attending Sunday Mass has not increased significantly. A Haitian Outreach Committee is planning to bring the church to the recent arrivals on St. Thomas.

Led by Fr. Charles Crespo, Parochial Vicar at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral, the committee members, who are all Haitian Catholics, are strategizing ways to approach their compatriots through small Creole-language prayer services in homes or in church facilities. The aim is to intensify efforts in time for an Advent Mission.

THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY

October is the month of the rosary, and so this traditional prayer will be prayed before all daily Masses at most parishes.

Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas will have rosary walks through the neighborhood every Saturday in October at 7:00 a.m. Normally, parishioners pray in a procession through the streets only on the first Saturday of each month.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church on St. Thomas will have an hour of prayer and teaching each Sunday after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

In addition, an evangelization team on St. Thomas will travel from home to home nightly throughout the month to lead evenings of praise and prayer in Spanish. Those who offer their dwellings are asked to invite their neighbors. The team will lead the households in the recitation of the rosary. Afterwards, participants will be invited to share in a Bible-based catechetical teaching and offer intercessory prayers. The evening concludes with a priest or deacon blessing the homes.

PATRONAL FEAST DINNER

Holy Cross Church on St. Croix will extend its annual patronal feast with a dinner honoring parishioners who have been exceptional servants: Elizabeth Hering, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Lang and Mr. and Mrs. Charles McGregor. The late Leonard Schwan will be recognized as well.

The St. Lawrence Cenacle will sponsor the dinner at Teddy's Restaurant on Friday, October 2, at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the parish office for \$60.

TRANSITUS OF ST. FRANCIS

Franciscans celebrate the *transitus* or "passing over" of St. Francis of Assisi on the anniversary of his death, October 3, and a Mass on his feast day, October 4. "Transitus" is a Latin word meaning "to pass through," but the service is as much a celebration of the saint's life as a commemoration of his death.

The two local fraternities of the Secular Franciscan Order invite the public to experience Franciscan spirituality and celebrate the *Transitus* at prayer services on Saturday, October 3. The Lady Clare of Assisi Fraternity will meet at Holy Family Church on St. Thomas at 5:00 p.m. The Our Lady of the Angels Fraternity will meet at Franciscan House on St. Croix on Saturday, October 3, at 7:00 p.m.

BLESSING OF PETS

The feast day of St. Francis of Assisi is October 4, and in honor of his renowned love for animals, two schools will celebrate with a blessing of pets. On St. Thomas, pets will be blessed in the center courtyard of Ss. Peter and Paul School on Friday, October 2, at 8:30 a.m. Students from the lower grades will read original poems and sing songs at the prayer service. On St. Croix, pets will be blessed at a block party between Holy Cross Church and St. Mary School on Saturday, October 3, at 10:00 a.m. The festivities will include games, food, live music and donkey rides.

ROSARY CRUSADE

The Curia Immaculate Conception of the Legion of Mary on St. Thomas will participate in the nationwide 2009 Public Square Rosary Crusade on Saturday, October 10. The presidia from the various parishes will meet at Emancipation Garden at 1:00 p.m. and march to Ss. Peter

MAGNIFICAT MEALS

The St. Thomas/St. John chapter of Magnificat will host a luncheon at Victor's Hideout on Sunday, October 4, at 1:00 pm. Lisa Hassell-Forde returns as guest speaker.

The St. Croix chapter of Magnificat will host a luncheon at Gertrude's Restaurant on Sunday, October 25, at noon. Dr. Carol Razza of Florida will be the guest speaker.

Tickets for the luncheons are available at parish offices for \$35.

CHARISMATIC CONFERENCE

Fr. Anthony Abraham, Diocesan Director of Charismatic Renewal Services, and Sr. Florine Bailey, ICM, will be the speakers at the annual Men's and Women's Conference at Light of Christ Retreat Center on St. Croix on October 9-10. Friday's conference begins at 5:30 p.m.; Saturday's conferences begin at 9:00 a.m. This year's theme is "Step Out and Find Out the Hidden Power of the Spirit of God." Tickets are available at the parish office for \$40.

FRANCISCAN ANNIVERSARY

The St. Croix-based West Indian Franciscans will celebrate their 25th anniversary as a religious community on October 19. Richard Trezza, OFM, of New Jersey will lead members of the Secular Franciscans Order in a retreat at Franciscan House on October 16-18. Also, Sr. Patricia Alexander, WIF, and Sr. Audrey Abel, WIF, will renew their vows of religious life at Mass at St. Ann Church on Sunday, October 18, during the 9:30 a.m. Mass.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Couples are invited to participate in a Marriage Encounter weekend at Light of Christ Retreat Center on St. Croix on November 6-8. Marriage Encounters are designed to deepen and enrich the joys a couple share together. The retreat enables married couples to discover God's vision of marriage, family life and spiritual diversity, thereby leading them to a clearer understanding of their relationship with each other and with God.

The Catholic Islander is published monthly by the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands.

The Catholic Islander is written, edited and printed entirely in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

P.O. Box 301825, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, 00803-1825 <http://www.catholicislander.com>

Telephone: (340) 774-0201, ext. 252 Fax: (340) 776-9586 E-mail: editc

Publisher

Bishop Herbert Bevard

Editor-in-Chief

Fr. Charles Crespo

Spanish Editor

Deacon Ernesto Rodriguez

Proofreaders

Bernetia Akin, Valerie Douté

Webmaster

Br. James Petrait, OSFS

*Please submit news,
digital photography and
advertising for the
November 2009 issue of
The Catholic Islander
by October 16, 2009.*



CCVI HOUSES THE HOMELESS

Three former residents of Bethlehem House Shelter on St. Thomas will move into supportive transitional housing by mid-November. Catholic Charities of the Virgin Islands (CCVI) purchased a house (pictured above) with Community Development Block Grant funds and the Knights of Malta managed the renovation efforts for this purpose.

To qualify for transitional housing, residents must find employment and participate in CCVI's supportive services to prepare for independent living. They can remain in the transitional program up to one year.

RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY

Fr. Patrick Lynch, Director of Respect Life Ministries, has asked pastors and school administrators to draw attention to Respect Life Sunday, which this year falls on October 4. This year's theme is "Every Child Brings Us God's Smile," from Pope Benedict XVI's homily on the Baptism of the Lord in 2007.

Pro-life efforts are being organized locally for October. Fr. Lynch and Deacon Joseph Mark of St. Ann Church on St. Croix will lead a Chastity Workshop at St. Joseph High School. Also, a one-hour prayer vigil will be held outside the abortion clinic at Beeston Hill on St. Croix on

HELPING THE HOMELESS

Catholic Charities of the Virgin Islands will be among the social service agencies participating in Project Homeless Connect at the University of the Virgin Islands gymnasium on St. Thomas on Friday, October 16, and at the Agriculture Fairgrounds on St. Croix on Friday, October 23. Both events run from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m..

Homeless persons will be driven to Project Homeless Connect. Volunteers will usher the homeless to booths where services will be available. Free haircuts, showers, toiletries, clothing, long distance telephone calls and lunch will be offered to the needy. They also will be offered legal assistance and access to food stamps, WIC, food vouchers and HIV screenings.

Project Homeless Connect is sponsored by the United Way in cooperation with the Virgin Islands Department of Human Services and the Interagency Council on Homelessness.

HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS

Catholic Charities of the Virgin Islands and other members of the Interagency Council and the Continuum of Care will participate in National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week on November 15-21. This is the seventh consecutive year of Virgin Islands participation in the national effort to bring public awareness to the problems of hunger and homelessness during the week before Thanksgiving.

The week's activities will begin with a Day of Prayer for the poor and homeless. Pastors on all three islands are asked to include prayers for the poor and homeless in their church services on Saturday, November 14, and Sunday, November 15.

The sponsoring agencies will lead food drives to assist homeless shelters, soup kitchens and outreach centers. The agencies also will encourage individuals and groups to write letters to their senators concerning the growing population of homeless persons and the need for action to address the problem.

HURRICANE SUPPLICATION PROCESSION



Each hurricane season, parishioners at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas are invited to march in procession inside the church at the end of the Sunday 10:30 a.m. Mass and chant a litany asking God to spare the islands from all natural disasters.

¡BUENAS NOTICIAS!

DESCANSE EN PAZ

Se solicita oraciones para el descanso eterno por el alma de Myrna Scantlebury, madre de P. Neil Scantlebury, párroco de la Iglesia Holy Family en Sto. Tomás. Ella falleció por enfermedad en Barbados el 1 de septiembre y fue enterrada el 8 de septiembre. El Obispo Herbert Bevard y el Monseñor Jerome Feudjio representaron a la Diócesis de Sto. Tomás en las Islas Vírgenes en el velorio y en la Misa funeraria.

EL MES DEL ROSARIO

La comunidad católica hispana en Sto. Tomás se reunirá en diferentes casas por cinco noches cada semana durante el mes de octubre, celebrando el Mes del Rosario. El P. Janvier Sidjeu, el P. Charles Crespo, el Diácono José Vázquez y el Diácono Ernesto Rodríguez de la Catedral San Pedro y San Pablo llevarán acabo estas noches de oración empezando el 1 de octubre.

LA BENDICIÓN DE LOS ANIMALES

El 4 de octubre es la fiesta de San Francisco de Asís, un santo conocido en parte por su amor a los animales. En su memoria, dos escuelas han anunciado la bendición de animales. Los alumnos están invitados a traer sus perros, gatos, pajaros, pescados, tortugas y cualquier otro animal doméstico ese día.

El P. Charles Crespo de la Catedral San Pedro y San Pablo en Sto. Tomás hará la bendición en la Escuela San Pedro y San Pablo el viernes 2 de octubre a las 8.30 a.m. Los estudiantes de los grados primarios leerán poemas originales y cantarán canciones mientras el sacerdote bendice a los animales.

En Sta. Cruz habrá fiesta en la calle entre la Iglesia Holy Cross y la Escuela Sta. María todo el día el sábado 3 de octubre comenzando a las 10.00 a.m. Habrá música en vivo, comida, juegos y paseos en burro para los niños. El P. Kenneth Gaddy, CSSR, hará la bendición.

NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA PROVIDENCIA

Dos parroquias celebrarán la fiesta de Nuestra Señora de la Divina Providencia, patrona de Puerto Rico, con Misas en español y recepciones. La Iglesia San José en Sta. Cruz la celebrará en el día actual, el jueves, 19 de noviembre, a las 7.00 p.m. La Catedral San Pedro y San Pablo en Sto. Tomás la celebrará en el domingo mas cercano, el 22 de noviembre, a las 12.30 p.m. Las ambas Misas serán seguidas por recepciones en sus salones parroquiales.

LECTORES COMIENZAN REUNIONES MENSUALES



El P. Janvier Sidjeu y los lectores hispanos de la Catedral San Pedro y San Pablo en Sto. Tomás tuvieron su primera reunión el 8 de septiembre.

SE SOLICITAN VOLUNTARIOS

Caridades Católicas en Sto. Tomás busca voluntarios que puedan dar unas horas cada día para cooperar con sus esfuerzos de ayudar a los más necesitados de la comunidad. Favor de llamar a la oficina para más información.

MOVIMIENTO DE CURSILLOS

Miembros del Movimiento de Cursillos de Cristiandad se reúnen para la ultreya en su oficina de la Iglesia San José en Sta. Cruz los jueves después de la Misa de las 7.00 p.m. Además, el grupo de oración de los Cursillistas se reúne en la Capilla San Miguel de la Iglesia San José en Sta. Cruz el 29 de octubre y el último jueves de cada mes a las 7.00 p.m.

ORACIÓN Y REFLEXIÓN

Feligreses rezan el rosario y comparten reflexiones sobre las lecturas del próximo domingo en español en la Iglesia Holy Cross en Sta. Cruz los martes a las 7.00 p.m.

LEGIÓN DE MARÍA

Presidium María, Arca de la Alianza, se reúne en el Salón de Hospitalidad de la Catedral San Pedro y San Pablo en Sto. Tomás el primer y tercer domingo de cada mes a las 2.00 p.m.

MINISTERIO A LOS ENFERMOS

Hay un servicio de comunión bilingüe en la capilla del Centro Médico Schneider en Sto. Tomás los lunes a las 5.00 p.m.

PROTECCIÓN DE NIÑOS

La Diócesis de Sto. Tomás en las Islas Vírgenes está comprometida a proteger a los niños de todo daño. Si tienes conocimiento de algún sacerdote, diácono o empleado de la iglesia que haya abusado de algún menor, favor de comunicarte inmediatamente con la Coordinadora Diocesana de la Protección de los Niños, Callista Julien, al (340) 774-3166.

Spotlight on Youth

STUDENTS STAND AGAINST DRUGS

Staff and students of all four Catholic schools in the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands will participate in Red Ribbon Week on October 19-23.

Red Ribbon Week is the oldest and largest drug abuse prevention campaign in the United States. It calls communities and individuals to make a commitment to promoting drug abuse prevention and education, as well as to living drug-free lives.

Students will start the week with a prayer service. Throughout the week, they will participate in essay, poster and classroom decoration contests. By the end of the week, the elementary school students will parade through the communities around their school chanting drug-free slogans and hoisting anti-drug messages on banners.

FUN DAY FUNDRAISER



About 75 children and adults attended a Fun Day hosted by the Cursillo Movement at St. Joseph Church on St. Croix. The meals, games and a raffle were held outdoors after the weekend Masses on September 13.

The effort raised funds for the painting of the outside of the church building. The work is scheduled to be completed by Christmas.

CHRIST IN OTHERS YOUTH RETREAT



Nineteen youth from the four parishes on St. Croix participated in a Christ in Others Retreat (COR) at the Light of Christ Retreat Center on September 4-6. Youth ages 16-23 were invited to a weekend retreat that aimed at providing the participants with an experience of Catholic community. The annual retreat aimed at affording its participants an opportunity for encountering Christ, initiating self-discovery, healing family relationships, reviving one's faith and making healthy friendships.

Catholic Education

RETREAT FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION VOLUNTEERS

Forty-five volunteers in parish-based Religious Education from all four parishes on St. Croix attended a day of recollection at Light of Christ Retreat Center on September 12. The theme was “Faithful Disciples of the Lord.” The focus was on the Eucharist, the Holy Spirit and Mary, the spiritual mother of all catechists. Deacon Joseph Mark of St. Ann Church facilitated the conferences.



SCHOOL HOLDS “PARENTS NIGHT AT SCHOOL”



Pictured above, Dr. Gwen Moolenaar, Head of School at Ss. Peter and Paul School on St. Thomas, spoke to parents of students.

Approximately 100 parents of students at Ss. Peter and Paul School on St. Thomas participated in Parents Night at School on September 10. Parents attended an abbreviated school day, in which they followed their child’s schedule, changing classes every 15 minutes, in order to meet the teachers and ask questions about the curriculum. Parents received no homework, and no parent was issued a detention.

ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL FACULTY AND STAFF



The faculty and staff at St. Joseph High School on St. Croix, left to right: Sandra Miranda, Office Assistant I; Client Ferris, Guidance Counselor; Dr. Nii Ahene Mettle-Nunoo, Art; Aixys Valentin, Foreign Language; Nathalia Eugene, Physical Education; Marsha Bedford, Science; Penrose Gardiner, Accountant (in back); Deborah Skalkos, Head of School; Linda-Lacy Hodge, Dance; Jonathan Bannis, Technology Administrator; Brenda Jackson, English; Meg Bryson, Religion; Leona Pelle, Mathematics; Br. James Petrait, OSFS, Biology, Physics and Chemistry; Hilda Alvarez, Office Assistant II; Thomas Cybela, Sociology, US Government. (Not in picture: Samuel Oliva, English; Horace Sealy, Maintenance)

THANKSGIVING RAFFLE

St. Patrick Church on St. Croix launched its annual Thanksgiving raffle in September. The grand prize is \$7,000, second prize is \$3,500, third prize is \$1,000 and fourth prize is \$500. Tickets are available at the church office for \$5 each, or \$50 for a book of 12 tickets. The drawing will take place at the Thanksgiving Quadrille at St. Gerard Hall on Friday, November 27.

THANKSGIVING QUADRILLE

The Men's Fellowship of St. Patrick Church on St. Croix will present its annual Thanksgiving Quadrille at St. Gerard Hall on Friday, November 27, at 10:00 p.m. Curtis Williams is the caller. Tickets are available at the church office for \$10.

NUESTRA SEÑORA DE PROVIDENCIA, PATRONESS OF PUERTO RICO

Two parishes will celebrate the Feast of Nuestra Señora de la Divina Providencia (Our Lady of Divine Providence), patroness of Puerto Rico, with Spanish Masses.

St. Joseph Church on St. Croix will celebrate on the actual feast day, Thursday, November 19, at 7:00 p.m. Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas will celebrate the Mass on the nearest Sunday, November 22, at 12:30 p.m. Both Masses will be followed by a reception with traditional Puerto Rican dishes in their respective Hospitality Lounges.

Our Lady of Divine Providence is one of many titles of Mary, the mother of Jesus. She has been considered the patroness of Puerto

THREE "WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE" ARE HONORED FOR PARISH MINISTRIES



The Columban Hall Board of Holy Family Church on St. Thomas presented a Grandparents Day Celebration of Women of Excellence on September 13. Pictured above, left to right, Christina Rojas-Pickering, Viola Smith and Petra "Tati" Vazquez were honored for their long-time leadership

KNIGHTS SELL SOUP TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE BISHOP'S APPEAL



The Knights of Columbus Council 6187 held a Soup Sale between Sunday Masses at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas to help raise funds for the Bishop's Appeal on August 30. Pictured left to right are Alrid Lockhart, Marcellin Phillip, Claudy Brutus, Sr., and Jimmy Hunt.

US BISHOPS PROPOSE CHANGES IN THE MASS

A new Website from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops will educate Catholics about the forthcoming English translation of the new Roman Missal.

The site, www.usccb.org/romanmissal, launched August 21, includes background material on the process of development of liturgical texts, sample texts from the Missal, a glossary of terms and answers to frequently asked questions. Content will be added regularly over the next several months. The bishops' Committee on Divine Worship hopes the site will be a central resource for those preparing to implement the new text.

After more than five years of consultation, study and reflection, the bishops are expected to conclude their review and approval of the final portion of the translated texts at the end of this year. Final approval (recognitio) of the text from the Holy See for the complete translation will be the last step before the publication of the texts for use in the liturgy.

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



Parishioners at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church on St. Thomas were invited to bring a flower to a Holy Hour in honor of the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on September 8. All were invited to process and place the flower before an image of Our Lady of Grace after praying the rosary. Pictured above, parishioner Carmen Sibilly prayed after leaving her flower.

US BISHOPS ON PRESIDENT'S HEALTH CARE ADDRESS

Calling it an important contribution to a crucial national debate, officials speaking on behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) welcomed President Barak Obama's September 9 address on health care reform, particularly his statements regarding abortion and the uninsured.

"We agree that 'no one should go broke because they get sick,'" said Kathy Saile, Director of Domestic Social Development at the USCCB. "That's why the U.S. Bishops have worked for decades for decent health care for all. The Catholic Church provides health care for millions, purchases health care, picks up the pieces of a failing health system, and has a long tradition of teaching on ethics in health care. Health care reform that respects the life and dignity of all is a moral imperative and urgent national priority. We welcome the President's speech as an important contribution to this essential national debate and task."

"We especially welcome the President's commitment to exclude federal funding of abortion, and to maintain existing federal laws protecting conscience rights in health care," said Richard Doerflinger, Associate Director of Pro-Life Activities at the USCCB. "We believe that incorporating essential and longstanding federal laws on these issues into any new proposal will strengthen support for health care reform. We will work with Congress and the Administration to ensure that these protections are clearly reflected in new legislation, so no one is required to pay for or take part in abortion as a result of health care reform."

"We agree with the President that there are details that need to be ironed out," said Saile. "And with his address on September 9, we see the opportunity to work towards a truly universal health policy with respect for human life and dignity, access for all with a special concern for the poor, and inclusion of legal immigrants. We also see the possibility of meeting the bishops' goal to pursue the common good and preserve pluralism, including freedom of conscience and a variety of options, and restraining costs and applying them equitably across the spectrum of payers."

*Is God calling you to the priesthood, diaconate
or religious life?
Speak with Msgr. Jerome Feudjio, Director of Vocations,
at (340) 774-3166.*

St. John Calendar

LEGION OF MARY

Presidium Mary, Queen of Angels, meets in the Guadalupe Hall of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.

SILENT EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church has a Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.

EVENINGS OF CHARISMATIC PRAYER

Charismatic prayer meetings are held at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

The Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands is committed to protecting children from all harm. If you have knowledge that any priest, deacon or church worker may have abused a minor, please immediately contact the Diocesan Child Protection Coordinator, Callista Julien, at (340) 774-3166.

*ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS TO
THOUSANDS OF VIRGIN ISLANDERS
EACH MONTH IN
THE CATHOLIC ISLANDER!*

Call (340) 774-3166 for rates.

*Our Blessed Mother's Message from Medjugorje
August 25, 2009*

The Pride of Our Parishes



Providencia Velazquez of St. Joseph Church on St. Croix will be 92 years old on October 24.



Msgr. Jerome Feudjio, Rector of Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas, gave a birthday blessing to Phyllis Benjamin on September 13. She is a member of the Catholic Daughters of America and is a cantor in the choir.

“Dear children! Today I call you anew to conversion. Little children, you are not holy enough and you do not radiate holiness to others, therefore pray, pray, pray and work on your personal conversion, so that you may be a sign of God’s love to others. I am with you and am leading you towards eternity, for which every heart must yearn. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

Courtesy of Claire & John Foster

CONTINUUM CARE, INC.

Hospice of St. Croix, St. Thomas, St. John

We provide care to the terminally ill.

Individualized Medical and Nursing Support, Spiritual, Emotional, Nutritional Counseling, and Personal Care.

St. Croix 772-CARE (2273)

St. Thomas – St. John 714-CARE (2273)

E-mail: ContinuumCare@attglobal.net

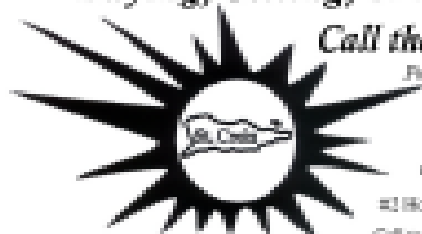
website: www.ccivi.com

Medicare Certified. Most Insurance Accepted. EEOC.

Se Habla Español

Buying, Selling, or Renting?

Call the Experts!



*Providing Efficient, Friendly
and Professional Service
Since 1978*

Toll Free: (888) 773-4298
email: contact@sunrealty.vi
website: www.sunrealty.vi

41 Hospital Street, Christ Church
Call today: (248) 773-8790

SUN REALTY
Investments of St. Croix

St. Croix Calendar

HOLY HOURS/EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Holy Cross Church has Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction on October 2 and all First Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

St. Joseph Church has a bilingual Holy Hour with Exposition and Benediction on October 2 and all First Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

St. Patrick Church has a Holy Hour with Exposition and Benediction on Fridays after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

St. Ann Church has a Holy Hour with Exposition and Benediction in the St. Ann Chapel on Fridays at 5:30 p.m.

PATRONAL FEAST DINNER

Holy Cross Church will have its patronal feast dinner at Teddy's Restaurant on Friday, October 2, at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the parish office for \$60.

HEALING MASS

St. Patrick Church has a Healing Mass on October 2 and the First Friday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

SANTO NIÑO

St. Joseph Church hosts devotions to Santo Niño (the Holy Child Jesus) on October 3 and the first Saturday of each month at 4:30 p.m. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered during this time.

FRANCISCAN PRAYER SERVICE

The Our Lady of the Angels Fraternity will celebrate the Transitus of St. Francis at Franciscan on Saturday, October 3, at 7:00 p.m.

CHARISMATIC CONFERENCE

The St. Patrick Church Women's Conference Committee has a Men's and Women's Conference at Light of Christ Retreat Center on St. Croix on October 9-10. Tickets are available at the parish office for \$40.

PRO-LIFE PRAYER VIGIL

The Pro-Life Committee of Holy Cross Church will hold a prayer vigil outside the abortion clinic at Beeston Hill on Tuesday, October 13, at 10:00 a.m.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER MEETINGS

St. Patrick Church has charismatic prayer on October 16 and the third Friday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

St. Ann Church has charismatic prayer in Marian Hall on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

SECULAR ORDER DISCALCED CARMELITES

The Our Lady Star of the Sea Community shares Carmelite spirituality in the St. Joseph Church Hospitality Lounge and Learning Center on October 25 and the fourth Sunday of each month at 1:00 p.m.

FRANCISCAN SPIRITUALITY

The Our Lady of the Angels fraternity of the Third Order of St. Francis shares Franciscan spirituality at Franciscan House on October 25 and the fourth Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m.

MAGNIFICAT MEAL

Magnificat will host a luncheon at Gertrude's Restaurant on Sunday, October 25, at noon. Tickets are available at all parish offices for \$35.

CURSILLO PRAYER GROUP

The Cursillo Movement hosts a Spanish prayer meeting in the St. Michael Chapel at St. Joseph Church on October 26 and the last Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

NEO-CATECHUMENAL WAY

The Neo-Catechumenal Way leads a Celebration of the Word at St. Joseph Church on Mondays at 7:00 p.m.

ADULT EDUCATION

The St. Patrick Learning Center offers classes in Pre-GED, GED, Computer Literacy, Intermediate Computer and ESL on Monday through Thursday mornings.

WORLD APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA

The World Apostolate of Fatima meets in the chapel at Holy Cross Church on Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m.

SPANISH PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Pray the rosary and share reflections on the readings of the coming Sunday Mass at Holy Cross Church on alternate Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are in Spanish.

SHEPHERDS OF CHRIST ASSOCIATES

The Shepherds of Christ Associates meet for prayer in the St. Michael Chapel of St. Joseph Church on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. and on the second and fourth Sunday of each month at 5:00 p.m.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Holy Cross Council 6482 meets at Holy Cross Church's McAlpin Hall on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 6:00 p.m.

CURSILLO ULTREYA

Cursillo members meet for the "ultreya" in the Cursillo office at St. Joseph Church on Thursdays after the 7:00 p.m. Mass. Meetings are in Spanish.

LEGION OF MARY

Presidium Our Lady of Grace meets in the Holy Cross Church rectory on Saturdays at 4:30 p.m.

St. Thomas Calendar

CHILDREN'S EUCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church on St. Thomas will have a Children's Eucharistic Holy Hour on Friday, October 2, at 6:00 p.m.

BINGO NIGHTS

Ss. Peter and Paul School will have bingo in the cafeteria on three Fridays, October 2, 16 and 30, at 7:00 p.m.

MINISTRY TO CATHOLIC WOMEN

Magnificat, an international ministry to Catholic women, meets at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral's Hospitality Lounge on October 3 and the first Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA DEVOTION

The Children of Mary lead a devotion to Our Lady of Fatima at Holy Family Church on October 3 and the first Saturday of each month at 4:00 p.m.

FRANCISCAN PRAYER SERVICE

The Lady Clare of Assisi Fraternity will celebrate the Transitus of St. Francis at Holy Family Church on Saturday, October 3, at 5:00 p.m.

MAGNIFICAT MEAL

Magnificat will host a luncheon at Victor's Hideout on Sunday, October 4, at 1:00 pm. Tickets are available for \$35 at all parish offices.

ROSARY CRUSADE

The Legion of Mary will gather for a Rosary Crusade at Emancipation Garden on Saturday, October 10, at 1:00 p.m., and walk to Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral.

FRANCISCAN SPIRITUALITY

The Lady Clare of Assisi Fraternity shares Franciscan spirituality at Holy Family Church's Columban Hall on October 10 and the second Saturday of each month at 1:00 p.m.

ST. JOSEPH WORKERS

The St. Joseph Workers meet at Holy Family Church's Columban Hall on October 11 and the second Sunday of each month at 9:30 a.m.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Share Vincentian spirituality at Holy Family Church on October 13 and the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF AMERICA

Court 2049 meets at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral's Hospitality Lounge on October 18 and the third Saturday of each month at 3:00 p.m.

HOLY HOURS/EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church has Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction on October 29 and the last Thursday of every month from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m., on Tuesdays from 7:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. and on Fridays from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral has Exposition and Benediction in Spanish on Tuesdays at 5:45 p.m. and in English on Fridays at 12:45 p.m.

Holy Family Church has Exposition and Benediction on Fridays at 6:00 p.m.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Council 6187 meets at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral's Hospitality Lounge on the first and third Sunday of each month at 10:00 a.m.

LEGION OF MARY

Presidium María, Arca de la Alianza, holds meetings in Spanish on the first and third Sundays of each month at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral's Hospitality Lounge at 2:00 p.m.

Presidium Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces meets at the St. Anne Chapel Hall on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Presidium Mary, Mystical Rose meets in Holy Family Church's classroom on Sundays at 3:00 p.m.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK

A Catholic communion service is celebrated in the All Faiths Chapel at the Schneider Regional Medical Center on Mondays at 5:00 p.m.

EVENINGS OF CHARISMATIC PRAYER

Charismatic prayer meetings are held at Holy Family Church on Mondays at 7:00 p.m.

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

The Sons of Joseph and Mary meet at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

PRO-LIFE ROSARY

A Pro-Life Rosary is prayed at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church on Wednesdays after the 6:30 p.m. Mass.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER GROUP

A team is prepared to pray for the needs of all who ask at Holy Family Church on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

WORLD APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA

The World Apostolate of Fatima meets at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

ROSARY WALK

Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral hosts a rosary walk every Saturday of October at 7:00 a.m.