

THE NEWSLETTER

OF THE CATHOLIC

DIOCESE OF THE

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

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November 2009

# the Catholic *islander*

Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral

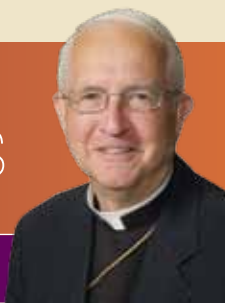
# Rosary Walk

U.S. Bishops  
Assembly

Cathedral Restoration  
Fundraiser

September 11  
Commemoration

# Welcome New Ministers



>> **The Most Reverend Herbert A. Bevard**, Bishop of the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands

## Diaconate Ordinations

His Excellency Bishop Herbert Bevard ordained Clement Danet and Bernard Gibs of St. Anne Chapel

to the permanent diaconate at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas on September 26. Deacon Danet has been assigned to the cathedral, and Deacon Gibs has been assigned to the chapel. With ordination, their service at liturgies and in the community has expanded. They also will begin officiating at baptisms, weddings and funerals. Presently, they are studying homiletics in preparation for the faculties to preach.



## New Acolytes

His Excellency Bishop Herbert Bevard conferred the ministry of acolyte on three men at St. Patrick Church on St. Croix when he celebrated Mass on September 27. Carlos Pena, Juan Soto and Pierre Tepie were appointed to assist the priests and deacons in liturgical celebrations, especially in the celebration of Mass. Pictured above, left to right: Mr. Pena, Mr. Tepie, Bishop Bevard, and Mr. Soto.

**Sunday, November 1**, 8:30 a.m., All Saints Day Mass, Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral, St. Thomas.

**Monday, November 2**, 5:30 p.m. Procession and 6 p.m. All Souls Day Mass, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, St. Thomas.

**Wednesday, November 4**, 12:15 p.m., Mass, Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral, St. Thomas.

**Sunday, November 8**, 7:30 a.m. Mass and 11 a.m. Dominica Independence Day Mass, Holy Family Church, St. Thomas.

**Friday, November 13**, Knights of Malta meeting, New York.

**November 14–15**, Mission Appeal, Pennsylvania.

**November 16–19**, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Fall General Assembly, Baltimore, Maryland.

**November 21–22**, Mission Appeal, St. Peter Church, Newcastle, Delaware.

**Tuesday, November 24**, 9 a.m., All-School Pre-Thanksgiving Mass, St. Ann Church, St. Croix.

**Tuesday, November 24**, 1:30 p.m., Ss. Peter and Paul School Pre-Thanksgiving Mass, Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral, St. Thomas.

**Thursday, November 26**, 9 a.m., Thanksgiving Mass, Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral, St. Thomas.

**Friday, November 27**, 6 p.m. Holy Hour and 7 p.m. Mass, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, St. Thomas.

**Saturday, November 28**, 5:30 p.m. Confessions and 6:30 p.m. Mass, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, St. Thomas.

**Sunday, November 29**, 6:30 a.m. Mass, 8 a.m. Confessions, 9 a.m. Mass, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, St. Thomas.

the **Catholic** islander

The Magazine of the Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands

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Please submit news, digital photography and advertising for the **December 2009** issue of *The Catholic Islander* by **November 9, 2009**.

what you'll get in this issue



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### Keys and Sword Gala

His Excellency Bishop Herbert Bevard has announced the First Annual Keys and Sword Award Benefit. He asked that everyone "Save the Date" of Saturday, February 6, 2010, and join him in honoring the first recipient, His Excellency Bishop Emeritus Elliott Thomas. The event will take place at the Marriott Frenchman's Reef Beach Resort and will include dinner, dancing, raffles and silent auction. Mark your calendars and support the Cathedral Restoration Project. For information, contact Bobbi Reynolds at (340) 774-3166, ext. 213.

### U.S. Bishops Assembly

His Excellency Bishop Herbert Bevard will attend the Fall General Assembly of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in Baltimore, Maryland, on November 16-19.

At the assembly, the bishops will hear an address by the president of the USCCB, Cardinal Francis George of Chicago, and elect the USCCB chairs-elect of the Committees on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations; Divine Worship; Domestic Justice and Human Development; Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth; and Migration.

Other action items include votes on the following:

- Sections of the New Roman Missal
- Pastoral letter, "Marriage: Life and Love in the Divine Plan"
- Document on reproductive technologies, "Life-giving Love in an Age of Technology"

- Revision of directive no. 58 in "Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services"

The meeting agenda also will include a preliminary report on the Causes and Context Study on clergy sexual abuse of minors conducted by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice and a report by the National Religious Vocation Conference on a recent study of religious vocations.

### Pre-Thanksgiving School Masses

His Excellency Bishop Herbert Bevard will celebrate two pre-Thanksgiving Masses for Catholic School students on Tuesday, November 24. Students of St. Mary, St. Patrick and St. Joseph Schools on St. Croix will be bussed to the Mass at St. Ann Church at 9 a.m. Students of Ss. Peter and Paul School on St. Thomas will attend the Mass at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral at 1:30 p.m.

### Bishop's Appeal

His Excellency Bishop Bevard sincerely appreciates the generosity of all those who have made contributions or pledges to the 2009 Bishop's Appeal. As the end of 2009 approaches, this is a reminder to those who made pledges and have not made a recent donation to please send in your overdue payments as soon as possible. Those with questions about their balance due are encouraged to contact Valerie Douté at the Catholic Chancery at (340) 774-3166.

### New Tabernacle

His Excellency Bishop Herbert Bevard blessed the new tabernacle at St. Patrick Church on St. Croix when he celebrated Mass on September 27. Custom-made by Andre McBean of St. Croix, the tabernacle is local mahogany, like much of the church interior. The emblem on the doors of the tabernacle is the alpha and omega. The new tabernacle was placed on the wall directly behind the altar.



Andre McBean crafted a new tabernacle for St. Patrick Church on St. Croix.

### Appointment

His Excellency Bishop Herbert Bevard has appointed Father Charles Crespo as Administrator of St. Anne Chapel on St. Thomas, effective November 1. He will continue as managing editor of *The Catholic Islander* and will continue establishing a diocesan-wide Haitian outreach.

### Second Collection

Parishes will have a second collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) on November 21-22. CCHD is the domestic anti-poverty and social justice program of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

### Two Pastors Installed



His Excellency Bishop Herbert Bevard installed Very Rev. Neil Scantlebury as Pastor of Holy Family Church on St. Thomas at Mass on October 17.



His Excellency Bishop Herbert Bevard installed Msgr. Jerome Feudjio as Rector of Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas at Mass on October 18.

## September 11 Commemoration

The Senior Class of St. Joseph High School presented prayers, singing, readings, skits, dancing and a video to the entire school at the St. Joseph Catholic Church Hospitality Lounge on September 11 in commemoration of 9/11.



Senior Class President, Duvante Vegas is shown doing a reading.

## Meeting the Superintendent

His Excellency Bishop Herbert Bevard introduced Father Patrick Lynch, CSSR, Superintendent of Catholic Education, to the new leadership at Ss. Peter and Paul School on September 23.



Pictured left to right are Father Lynch, Bishop Bevard, Dr. Gwen Moolenaar, Head of School, and Richard Pukenas, Principal.

## Senior Class Introductory Night



Senior Evanya Schuster performed a dance in front of the senior class head table during the Introductory Night.

The Class of 2010 of St. Joseph High School on St. Croix introduced themselves and spoke of their goals to parents and faculty during Introductory Night at the Innovation Building on St. Croix on October 3.

Major Marise James was the keynote speaker at the Introductory Night. Major Marise is the mother of three graduates of the school. She gave an uplifting talk on the importance of choosing good colleges.

## St. Mary School Fire Prevention Week

St. Mary School on St. Croix participated in Fire Prevention Week on October 5-9.

Firefighters gave presentations at the school, and the students visited the local fire station and attended the Jamboree at Canegata Ball Park. Students also participated in the all-schools Fire Prevention Essay Writing Contest and won four of the six recognitions; the winners were Daniel Garriga-Cerni, Julissa Moolenaar, Ajani Rock, and Jenee Santos.



## Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week

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, 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 people and the need for action to address the problem.



Sister Marina is surrounded by her pastor, Father Louis Kemayou, and Religious Education teachers and students.

## Sister Retires After 35 Years

Sister Marina Picardal, ICM, retired from her position as Coordinator of Religious Education at St. Joseph Church on St. Croix on September 30. She served as Director of Religious Education for 10 years at the parish and 35 years total in the Caribbean. St. Joseph Church on St. Croix bid farewell to Sister Marina Picardal, ICM, at Sunday Mass on September 27.



## 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 celebrated with a blessing of pets.

Pictured above, Father Charles Crespo, Parochial Vicar at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas, blessed dogs, cats, birds, fish, turtles, hamsters, guinea pigs and chickens in the center courtyard of Ss. Peter and Paul School on October 2. Students from the lower grades read original poems and sang songs at the prayer service.

Father Kenneth Gaddy, CSsR, and Father Andrzej Szorc, CSsR, of Holy Cross Church on St. Croix blessed pets at a block party between Holy Cross Church and St. Mary School on October 3. Students and parents donated food, the St. Mary School Choir performed, and everyone received a certificate honoring St. Francis of Assisi. Activities included pet contests, donkey rides, Adopt-a-Pet activities/giveaways, face painting, and tasty treats. The festivities were featured on the front cover of the *St. Croix Avis*.

## All Saints Day/All Souls Day

All Saints Day, on November 1, recalls the saints in heaven. As it falls on a Sunday this year, all parishes will celebrate All Saints Day as their Sunday Masses.

All Souls Day is November 2. On that day, Catholics traditionally are invited to pray for those souls still in purgatory. His Excellency Bishop Herbert Bevard will lead a candlelight vigil and the blessing of graves at the cemetery adjoining Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church on St. Thomas at 5:30 p.m., followed by Mass in the church at 6 p.m.

## Dominica Independence Day Masses

Dominica will celebrate 31 years of independence on November 3. Catholics in the Virgin Islands will remember the occasion with two festive bilingual English/French Creole Masses on Sunday, November 8.

Two priests will come from Dominica to celebrate the Masses in the Virgin Islands. Father Charles Martin will celebrate Mass at St. Ann Church on St. Croix at 9:30 a.m. Father Cornelius Phillip will celebrate Mass at Holy Family Church on St. Thomas at 11 a.m. at which His Excellency Bishop Herbert Bevard will preside.

## Bazaar

St. Patrick Church on St. Croix will have a Fun Day and Fundraising Bazaar on Sunday, November 1, beginning at 1 p.m. The program includes food and games, including bingo.

## 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 Encounter weekends are designed to deepen and enrich the joys a couple shares 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.

## Welcome to America

Catholic Charities of the Virgin Islands (CCVI), in collaboration with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, has launched an initiative to encourage Virgin Islands residents holding green cards to pursue American citizenship. Caseworkers at CCVI will provide assistance to those seeking naturalization in navigating their way through the process. About 40 people attended the CCVI-sponsored presentation at Holy Family Church's Columban Hall on St. Thomas on September 19.

## New Sisters to Serve the Virgin Islands



Pictured left, Sister Margaret Confoy, SC, (left) has welcomed Sister Evelyn Lebiez, SC, to the Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth community on St. Thomas.



Two new Missionaries of Charity have come to serve on St. Croix. Pictured above/below, left to right, Sister M. Willima and Sister M. Jeevitha have joined Sister Marie Stephania and Sister M. Jean Avila.

## Thanksgiving Meals for the Needy

On Thanksgiving Day, November 26, several parishes in the diocese will have a blessing of bread and other foods at morning Masses and then prepare meals for the needy.

Les Enfants de Ste. Anne, the youth group at St. Anne Chapel on St. Thomas, will distribute food baskets to the needy of their community on Thanksgiving morning. Non-perishable food donations can be brought to the chapel before Mass.

The Missionaries of Charity and volunteers at Holy Cross Church on St. Croix will prepare and distribute as many as 700 meals for the poor. Some will eat at the St. Mary School cafeteria, but most will have home deliveries.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on St. John will have its annual Thanksgiving community meal in the Guadalupe Hall beginning at noon. Parishioners, tourists, area employees and the homeless will sit at table together for the banquet.

## 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 p.m. Curtis Williams is the caller. Tickets are available at the church office for \$10.

## VI Priest in Trinidad

Msgr. Michael Kosak, Director of Communications, attended the 15th anniversary of the Caribbean School for Catholic Communications in Arima, Trinidad, in August. He was invited to celebrate Mass and address the community due to his involvement with Caribbean Catholic Communications since the mid-1980s. While in Trinidad, he renewed his relationship with several friends and their families at a Pizza Hut party.



## 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.

## Alumni Week

Ss. Peter and Paul School on St. Thomas will gather alumni and friends for the annual Alumni Reconnect. Alumni are invited to visit the school and speak to the students during Alumni Week, November 16–20. The week ends with Mass at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on Sunday, November 22, at 8:30 a.m., followed by brunch. Tickets for the brunch are available at the school for \$45.

## Patronal Mass 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 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 Rico for approximately 150 years.

## Charismatic Conference

Approximately 60 people participated in the annual Men's and Women's Conference at Light of Christ Retreat Center on St. Croix on October 9–10. This year's theme was "Step Out and Find Out the Hidden Power of the Spirit of God."

Father Anthony Abraham, Director of Charismatic Renewal Services, and Sister Florine Bailey, ICM, were the main speakers. Father Abraham stressed the need for Christians to submit to the Holy Spirit and for Christians to ask



to be enlightened in the Word of God in order to experience God's power. Sister Bailey emphasized the need for Christians to become totally transparent before God and remove the "masks" of fear, negativity, and pride so that the Holy Spirit can strengthen one's faith journey.

The conference was hosted by the St. Patrick Church Prayer Group. The Core Team of Vertilee B. Daniel, Julia Pankey, Claudia Brown, Iris Richards, and Anastasia Doward led the praise and worship. The conference concluded with a Mass.

### Two Priests Celebrate Birthdays



Msgr. Jerome Feudjio, Rector of Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas, was feted on his birthday, September 30, by members of his present and past parishes.



Concelebrants gave Very Rev. Neil Scantlebury, a birthday blessing at the end of Mass at Holy Family Church on St. Thomas on October 1.

### Establishing a Television Studio

Father Louis Kemayou, pastor of St. Joseph Church on St. Croix, is establishing a small television studio at the parish in order to record and air Masses from the church. Father Kemayou recently had to break ground to insert pipes that would carry the cables. Pictured above, he mixed cement to repair a sidewalk between the rectory and Hospitality Lounge.



### Serving the Community

Members of Catholic Youth in Action, the youth group at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas, volunteered at Catholic Charities' Bethlehem House Shelter on September 26.

### Youth Rally

Father Anthony Abraham, Director of Youth Ministries, will lead a youth rally at St. Ann Church's Marian Hall on St. Croix on Sunday, November 29, at 3 p.m. "The short term goal is to bring the youth of the various parishes under one umbrella," said Father Abraham. "The long term goal is to enthuse the youth to get involved in ministry at their parish."

### Children Choir Anniversary

The Children Choir of St. Joseph Church on St. Croix celebrates its 14th anniversary by ministering in song on Sunday, November 15, at the parish's 7 a.m. Mass.



### Blessing of Flag

Msgr. Jerome Feudjio, Administrator of St. Anne Chapel on St. Thomas, blessed the flag presented to the chapel by the youth group, Les Enfants de Ste. Anne, at the end of Mass on October 10. This past July, the youth made a pilgrimage to St. Barthelemy, the land of their ancestry, where Vice President Yves Greaux presented them with the flag as a gift.



### Youth Ministry Visits BVI

Father Neil Scantlebury will lead a day trip to the BVI on Saturday, November 21. Catholic Youth in Action, the youth group at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas, raised funds for the trip to the British Virgin Islands with a bake sale between Sunday Masses on September 20. The program consists of visits to Jost Van Dyke, Norman Island, and the Baths in Virgin Gorda.

### Magnificat Meal

The St. Thomas/St. John chapter of Magnificat hosted a luncheon at Victor's Hideout on October 4. Lisa Hassell-Forde returned as guest speaker.

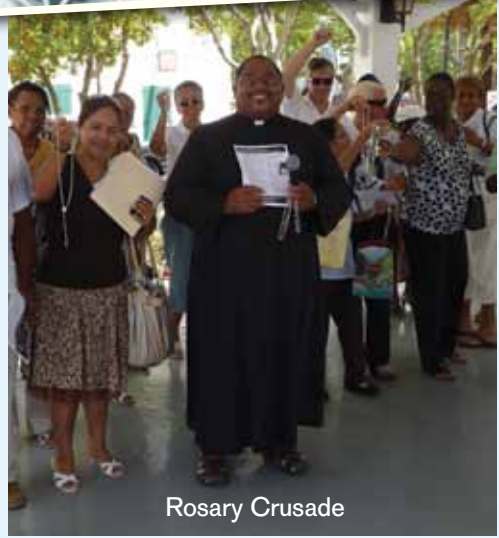


### Christmas Concert

The Prayers, Hymns and Praise Steel Orchestra of Holy Family Church on St. Thomas will headline "A Pre-Christmas Extravaganza" at Columban Hall on Sunday, November 29, at 5 p.m. The evening will include line dancing – electric slide, cha-cha slide, country western, and quadrille. Attire is black tie and jeans. Tickets are available at the parish office for \$25.



# The Month of the Rosary



cover story

O

ctober is the month of the rosary, so this traditional prayer was prayed before all daily Masses at most parishes.

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

An outreach team on St. Thomas traveled from home to home nightly throughout the month to lead evenings of praise and prayer in Spanish. Those who offered their dwellings were asked to invite their neighbors.

The team led the households in the recitation of the rosary. Afterwards, participants were invited to share in a Bible-based catechetical teaching and offer intercessory prayers. The evening concluded with a priest blessing the homes.

In addition, the Curia Immaculate Conception of the Legion of Mary on St. Thomas participated in the nationwide 2009 Public Square Rosary Crusade at Emancipation Garden on October 10. ☩

# Buenas Noticias!

## Día de Todos Los Santos Día de Todos Los Difuntos

El Día de Todos los Santos es el domingo 1 de noviembre. En la Misa, pedimos ayuda de los que ya están con Dios en el cielo. Este año, como cae domingo, el horario de misas será como de costumbre los domingos.

El lunes 2 de noviembre, Día de Todos los Difuntos, ofrecemos oraciones por todos aquellos que están todavía en el purgatorio. La Catedral San Pedro y San Pablo en Sto. Tomás tendrá Misa en español a las 7 p.m.

## Legión de María

El 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 p.m.

## Ministerio de los Enfermos

Hay un servicio de comunión bilingüe en la capilla del Centro Médico Schneider en Sto. Tomás los lunes a las 5 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.

## Día de Acción de Gracias

En el Día de Acción de Gracias, el 26 de noviembre, las Misionarias de Caridad y voluntarios de la Iglesia Holy Cross en Sta. Cruz prepararán y repartirán cerca de 700 comidas para los pobres. Algunos comerán en la cafetería de la Escuela Sta. María, pero los voluntarios mandarán la mayoría de las comidas a las casas.

En St. John, feligreses, turistas, empleados de negocios cercanos y los desamparados se sentarán juntos a comer en el Salón Guadalupe de la Iglesia Nuestra Señora del Carmen comenzando a mediodía.



La Presidia Maria, Arca de la Alianza, celebró su tercer aniversario durante la reunión en el Salón Social de la Catedral San Pedro y San Pablo en Sto. Tomás el 20 de septiembre.



El P. Charles Crespo recibió a Ivelisse Mota como miembro de la Legión de María y le presentó su libro durante la reunión en el Salón Social de la Catedral San Pedro y San Pablo en Sto. Tomás el 20 de septiembre.

## Nuestra Señora de 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 el jueves, 19 de noviembre, a las 7 p.m. La Catedral San Pedro y San Pablo en Sto. Tomás la celebrará el domingo más cercano, el 22 de noviembre, a las 12.30 p.m. Ambas Misas serán seguidas por recepciones en sus salones sociales.

## Cursillo Ultreya

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 p.m.



El P. Janvier Sidjeu bendijo los participantes de la primera reunión de hombres hispanos en la Catedral San Pedro y San Pablo en Sto. Tomás el 24 de septiembre.

## Oración y Reflexión

El grupo de oración del Movimiento de Cursillos de Cristiandad se reúne en la Capilla San Miguel de la Iglesia San José en Sta. Cruz el 30 de noviembre y el último lunes de cada mes a las 7.00 pm.

Un grupo reza el rosario y comparte las lecturas del próximo domingo en la Iglesia Holy Cross en Sta. Cruz los martes a las 7.00 pm.

Hay una hora santa bilingüe con exposición del santísimo y bendición en la Catedral San Pedro y San Pablo en Sto. Tomás los martes a las 5.30 pm.



# What can we learn from the universal church?

**>> Cardinal Justin Rigali is the archbishop of Philadelphia. He serves on many committees at the Vatican, and attended the Second Vatican Council. *The Catholic Insider* asked this eminent Catholic churchman and scholar some questions about the Catholic Church in the new millennium.**



## Church of the month

*The power and vitality of the Christian faith have long inspired tremendous works of art on the part of believers. One has only to consider the beauty of many of our principal churches to realize the transcendent beauty of our faith. For example, consider:*

**>> Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception**

**>>** The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is located in Washington, D.C., and honors the Blessed Virgin Mary as Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, the patroness of the United States. It is the largest Catholic church in America and one of the largest religious structures in the world. Millions of pilgrims visit the basilica each year. It is designated as a national

historic landmark.

The basilica does not have its own parish community, but it serves the adjacent university, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (located down the street) and hosts numerous Masses for organizations of the church from across the United States. It houses dozens of chapels honoring Mary and reflecting the origins of the Catholic immigrants and religious orders whose generos-



# Q

The American church is sometimes said to see its own issues as universal. What can we learn from looking at the way the church functions in other countries?

# A

First of all, we should not use the term "American church." Pope John Paul II mentioned that there is no such thing as a white church or a black church or an American church or a European church. It is all the Catholic Church. It is better to speak of the church in the United States or the church in Europe. But, having said that, another beautiful thing Pope John Paul said when he came to the United States was that the church in the United States is, by its very nature and composition, Catholic. Because catholic means universal. More than in any nation on earth, the components of those who make up the church in the United States come from all these backgrounds, ethnic groups and nationalities. It's like the Book of Revelation says, "From every tribe and nation and tongue on earth ... ." So this is a beautiful advantage to begin with. We are a people who are naturally catholic, naturally universal.

## Are you a heretic?



>> A theology professor once remarked that there were no new heresies, just old ones repackaged.

To test the truth of this statement, consider this recent real-life scenario and see if you can name the error involved:

### I decide what's best for me!

A woman is defending her decision to begin co-habiting with her boyfriend. Her friend advises against the decision on religious and moral grounds. Sensing the first woman is unmoved by her appeal to

But this is also a challenge to us, a challenge when we think of immigration and of generosity in admitting people to our shores. We have come from every nation on earth and other people would like to come in and be part of this. By our nature here, we are challenged to generosity and understanding of other people's plights.

In the past, the church in the United States has shown extraordinary sense of generosity. The immigrants came to these shores and built beautiful churches and schools. They did so much and they also helped the countries they had left. So the Catholics of the United States, after the world wars, contributed to rebuilding Europe. And right now, we have collections for Eastern and Central Europe and for missions. When Pope John Paul II came to the United States for his first visit in 1979, one of the things he said was that this was an hour of solemn gratitude for him to thank the

religion and morality, the second woman introduces hard, scientific data that further raises red flags over the decision. Finally, the first woman shakes off the objections of the second woman declaring, "I don't care what you or anyone else says about it, I feel very strongly that this is the best thing for me so I believe it is."

**What is at stake?** The reasonableness of Christianity is declared irrelevant in decision-making; and subjectivism and relativism gain prominence over objective truth.

**What is the truth?** This position is very common in today's culture and has its roots in the 1960s and the authentic-

people of this country for all they had done, so generously, from the beginning until now.

So that is part of the reality. And sometimes we need to be challenged more. Sometimes, in our generosity, we forget the full dimension of the needs of the world. The whole world, for many years now, has been forgetting the needs of the people of the Sudan and Darfur. Those are just a couple of examples.

ity movement. According to this doctrine, the intensity of feeling alone determines the truth, regardless of facts and evidence to the contrary. The problem is that feelings change and intensity fades. This view, in essence, leads to the irrelevance of the God of Christianity. With no ultimate criteria to frame our decision-making, fragmentation, division and even tyranny by so-called reformers become possible. Such a subjective and relative approach to decision-making eliminates from consideration the rationality and objectivity of not only common sense and experience, but of the common good.

Just as the church in the United States has certain characteristics, when you go to other countries, you will see how they actuate their Christianity in some particular way. There is something special about each people. When you go to Bolivia, Croatia, Japan or China, there is something special and unique about each of those peoples.

The church in the United States has a great deal to offer and a great deal to learn. ☩



## What is Advent?

>> Advent is the beginning of the church's year — occurring not in January, but during the four weeks prior to Christmas. Advent begins on the Sunday closest to Nov. 30, the Feast of St. Andrew. We prepare for the coming of Christ in joyful

anticipation. In the earliest days of the church, Advent lasted six weeks, until St. Gregory the Great, of calendar fame, fixed the season at four weeks and composed prayers and antiphons to celebrate it. The liturgical color for Advent is purple.

ity erected them.

The exterior of the basilica is 459 feet long, 240 feet wide and 237 feet tall to the top of the cross on the dome. The diameter of the main (Trinity) dome of the basilica is only 7 feet shorter than that of the dome of the United States Capitol.

### Origin:

>> In 1792, John Carroll, the bishop of Baltimore, consecrat-

ed the newly created United States under the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title of the Immaculate Conception. In 1847, Pope Pius IX proclaimed The Immaculate Conception as the patroness of the U.S. Then Bishop Thomas Joseph Shahan proposed the construction of the national shrine, taking his appeal to Pope Pius X in 1913. After receiving a land donation from the Catholic University

of America, Shahan published the *Salve Regina*, a newsletter meant to stir enthusiasm for his project. He wrote that the shrine would be a "monument of love and gratitude, a great hymn in stone as perfect as the art of man can make it and as holy as the intentions of its builders could wish it to be." His newsletter was circulated to dioceses throughout the country and financial donations began to pour in.

Church construction began in 1920 and the building opened in 1959. Even now, the basilica is considered to be incomplete.

### Notable features:

- **The Founder's Chapel** — the chapel within the shrine containing the tomb of Bishop Thomas Joseph Shahan.
- **The Papal Tiara of Pope Paul VI** — the crypt has displayed this tiara since 1968.

# St. Thomas Calendar

## Holy Hours/Eucharistic Adoration

**Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral** has Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction on November 6 and the first Friday of every month at 12:45 p.m. and on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church** has Exposition and Benediction on November 26 and the last Thursday of every month from 3 to 6 p.m., on Tuesdays from 7:30 a.m. until 6 p.m., and on Fridays from 6 to 7 p.m.

**Holy Family Church and St. Anne Chapel** have Exposition and Benediction on Fridays at 6 p.m., followed by Mass.

## Rosary Walk

**Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral** hosts a rosary walk on November 7 and the first Saturday of each month at 7 a.m.

## Ministry to Catholic Women

Magnificat, an international ministry to Catholic women, meets at **Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral's Hospitality Lounge** on November 7 and the first Saturday of each month at 8 a.m.

## Our Lady of Fatima Devotion

The Children of Mary lead a devotion to Our Lady of Fatima at **Holy Family Church** on November 7 and the first Saturday of each month at 4 p.m.

## St. Joseph Workers

The St. Joseph Workers meet at **Holy**

**Family Church's Columban Hall** on November 8 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 November 10 and the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

## Bingo Night

**Ss. Peter and Paul School** will have bingo in the cafeteria on three Fridays – November 13 and 20, and December 4, at 7 p.m.

## Franciscan Spirituality

The Lady Clare of Assisi Fraternity shares Franciscan spirituality at **Holy Family Church's Columban Hall** on

# St. Croix Calendar

## Holy Hours/Eucharistic Adoration

**Holy Cross Church** has Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction on November 6 and all First Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon.

**St. Joseph Church** has a bilingual Holy Hour with Exposition and Benediction on November 6 and all First Fridays at 7 p.m.

**St. Patrick Church** has a Holy Hour with Exposition and Benediction on Fridays after the 8 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.

## Healing Mass

**St. Patrick Church** has a Healing

Mass on November 6 and the First Friday of each month at 7 p.m.

## Santo Niño

**St. Joseph Church** hosts devotions to Santo Niño (the Holy Child Jesus) on November 7 and the first Saturday of each month at 4:30 p.m. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered during this time.

## Pro-Life Prayer Vigil

The Pro-Life Committee of **Holy Cross Church** will hold a prayer vigil outside the abortion clinic across from Island Center on Tuesday, November 10, at 5 p.m.

## Charismatic Prayer Meetings

**St. Patrick Church** has charismatic prayer on November 20 and the third Friday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

**St. Ann Church** has charismatic prayer in Marian Hall on Tuesdays at 7 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 November 22 and the fourth Sunday of each month at 1 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 November 22 and the fourth Sunday of each month at 2 p.m.

## Cursillo Prayer Group

The Cursillo Movement hosts a Spanish prayer meeting in the

November 14 and the second Saturday of each month at 1 p.m.

**Catholic Daughters of America**  
Court 2049 meets at **Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral's Hospitality Lounge** on November 21 and the third Saturday of each month at 3 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 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 p.m.  
Presidium Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces, meets at the **St. Anne Chapel Hall** on Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Presidium Mary, Mystical Rose, meets

in **Holy Family Church's classroom** on Sundays at 3 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 p.m.

**Evenings of Charismatic Prayer**  
Charismatic prayer meetings are held at **Holy Family Church** on Mondays at 7 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 p.m.

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

**St. Michael Chapel at St. Joseph Church** on the last Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

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

**Cursillo Ultreya**  
Cursillo members meet for the "ultreya" in the **Cursillo office at St. Joseph Church** on Thursdays after the 7 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.

## From bread to roses Saint Elizabeth of Hungary

**Feast Day:**  
November 17



**>> Elizabeth was born in 1207, and was the daughter of King Andrew of Hungary.** At 13, she married

Prince Ludwig of Thuringa. Her family opposed her works of charity, but she was determined to follow Christ. Once, while she was taking food to the poor, Prince Ludwig stopped her to see what she was hiding. Miraculously, the food she was hiding turned into roses.

**>> After Prince Ludwig's death, Elizabeth sold everything she had in order to support her children.**

**>> Despite her family's oppositions, Elizabeth helped the poor. She was known for her gifts of bread and grain to Germany, making her the patron saint of bakers.**

**>> Because of her tenderness to the sick, she is also the patron saint of nursing homes.**

# 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

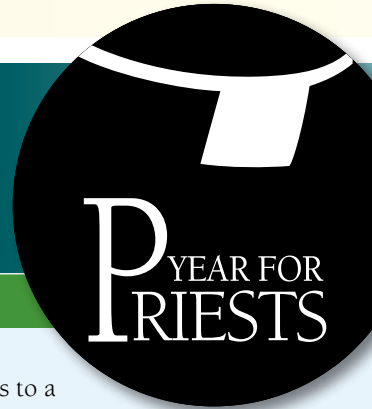
**Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church** has a Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction on Thursdays at 6 p.m.

## Evenings Of Charismatic Prayer

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

## Diocesan priest – religious priest What's the difference?

By Doug Culp | Photography by Tom Gennara



Cardinal Sean O'Malley of the Archdiocese of Boston, and former bishop of the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, is a Franciscan.

**Q:** What is the difference between a diocesan and religious priest?

**A:** They're both priests, but their ministries are a bit different.

A diocesan priest, or secular cleric, is ordained for a geographically defined area called a diocese. It is within this diocese that the priest ministers to the local church, generally serving in parish communities – although he may also assist in schools, hospitals and prisons, depending upon the local needs.

A diocesan priest does not take any vows – but he does make promises. He commits to living celibately and to be obedient and respectful to his local bishop. He does not live in a religious community, though he may live with other priests. It is customary for him to wear a Roman collar.

On the other hand, a religious order priest is not ordained

for a particular diocese. He belongs to a religious community, such as the Franciscans, Claretians or Dominicans. He strives to live the charism, or grace/mission/goal, of the community's founder.

Religious order priests often have a ministry related to that charism, such as education or health care. However, at the request of a bishop, a religious priest may also do parish work, sometimes in a parish that has been entrusted to his order or congregation. He remains under the authority of his superior and the rule of his community – except as it regards the particular parish ministry where he is to follow the directives of the bishop.

Unlike his diocesan counterpart, a religious order priest professes the three vows of chastity, poverty and obedience. According to Canon Law (c.599 – c.601), the vow of chastity “assumed for the sake of the kingdom of heaven” entails the obligation of perfect self-restraint in celibacy. The vow of poverty refers to a life poor in both fact and spirit. It requires both dependence and limitation in the “use and disposition” of goods according to the rules of the religious order. The vow of obedience requires the submission of the priest to the will of the legitimate superior as to his occupation, his place of living, his schedule and the rules and regulations of his order or congregation.

A religious priest normally lives in one of the communities of his order. He typically wears the religious habit of his order. Cardinal Sean O'Malley of Boston, for instance, usually wears the brown robe of a Franciscan. Order priests have initials after their names that identify their religious orders. For example, the Jesuits have the letters “SJ” after their names because the technical name is Societas Jesu, the Society of Jesus, in Latin. Likewise, the title for the Dominicans is Ordo Predicatorum, the Order of Preachers, thus “OP” follows their names.

**Q:** What is the life of a typical religious order priest?

**A:** Religious order priests normally live together as a community. As a community, they typically follow a pre-determined schedule that includes a combination of prayer, work and leisure.

With that said, what an individual religious order priest does daily is so varied and complex that is almost impossible to do anything but generalize. For example, many are unable to live in community for extended periods of time because they are engaged in mission work that carries them to distant lands. Some have one main occupation such as teaching, parish ministry or social work and their lives reflect the demands of these positions. Others are contemplatives who spend their days combining prayer with some form of labor in order to sustain the community.

**How has Hollywood depicted Catholic priests?**

>> We often hear complaints about how priests and the church are portrayed in the movies. Have things really changed? Take a look back at some priestly depictions from the 1930s and '40s – an era some call the 'golden age' of filmed priest-heroes.

**In 1937, Father Flanagan's Boys Town had become so well-known that MGM Studios offered to donate \$5,000 toward making a movie about it.** Although he originally declined, Father Flanagan agreed to the movie after he saw a script he liked. The movie, starring Spencer Tracy and Mickey Rooney, was filmed on the campus in Omaha, Neb. and was one of the most popular films of 1938. Spencer Tracy won a Best Actor Academy Award for his role as Father Flanagan, and donated the famous gold statue to Boys Town, where it remains on display today.



Is God calling you to the priesthood, diaconate or religious life?

Speak with Msgr. Jerome Feudjio, Director of Vocations. **Call (340) 774-3166.**

**Priest of the Month**

Father Andrzej Szorc, CSsR, arrived at Holy Cross Church on St. Croix on September 18 of this year. He is enjoying living in the "beautiful rectory" and is working on adjusting to the climate. Prior to September, he had been to the island only once in 2008 for a few days. A challenge thus far has been to learn Spanish, and he recently said his first Mass in this language. Father Szorc is no stranger to learning new languages, however – he is fluent in Polish, Russian, Italian and English.

Father Szorc (pronounced "shorts") was ordained in his native Poland in 1983 after attending a Redemptorist seminary in a small town in the south of Poland. Since his ordination, he studied in Rome (and very much enjoyed that beautiful city that so effortlessly blends the ancient and the modern), has taught at the Polish seminary he attended and has worked at a Mission in Lagos, Nigeria. He volunteered to spend two years in Nigeria but ended up staying for five and this is where he learned to speak English. Nigerian Pidgin, or what he referred to as "Pidgin" English, is commonly spoken across Nigeria.

He is excited about his new assignment on this beautiful island.



Pictured above, Father Szorc (left) was welcomed by this pastor, Father Kenneth Gaddy CSsR to Holy Cross Church in September.

priest of the month

**Major orders and their charisms**

>> A religious order is distinguished by a charism, or particular grace granted by God to the religious order's founder or the order itself. Here is a list of a few of the priestly religious orders and their charisms:

Order:	Charism:
Dominicans	Preaching
Benedictines	Liturgical prayer and monasticism
Franciscans	Poverty
Jesuits	Education and mission
Passionists	Preaching of the Passion
Fathers of Divine Mercy	Preaching of divine mercy of God
Carmelites	Contemplative prayer
Augustinians	Genuine community life
Maryknoll	Mission
Vincentians	Champion needs of the poor
Redemptorists	Preach the Gospel to the poor
Salesians	Pastoral charity in missionary expansion

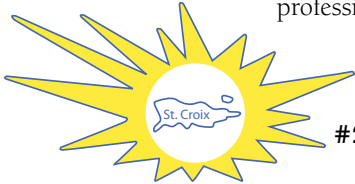
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Our Blessed Mother's  
Message from Medjugorje

September 25, 2009

"Dear children, with joy, persistently work on your conversion. Offer all your joys and sorrows to my Immaculate Heart that I may lead you all to my most beloved Son, so that you may find joy in His Heart. I am with you to instruct you and to lead you towards eternity. Thank you for having responded to my call." – Courtesy of John and Claire Foster



Pride of the Parish

Governor John de Jongh and Lieutenant Governor Gregory Francis honored Carmen Huertas of St. Joseph Church as part of the Virgin Islands-Puerto Rico Friendship Day celebration at the governor's house on St. Croix on October 10. Ms. Huertas was honored for overcoming her physical challenges and being an advocate for the rights of the disabled. Ms. Huertas is blind and has taught at the Arthur Richards School for 10 years.

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**.

