

THE NEWSLETTER  
OF THE CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF  
ST. THOMAS IN THE  
VIRGIN ISLANDS

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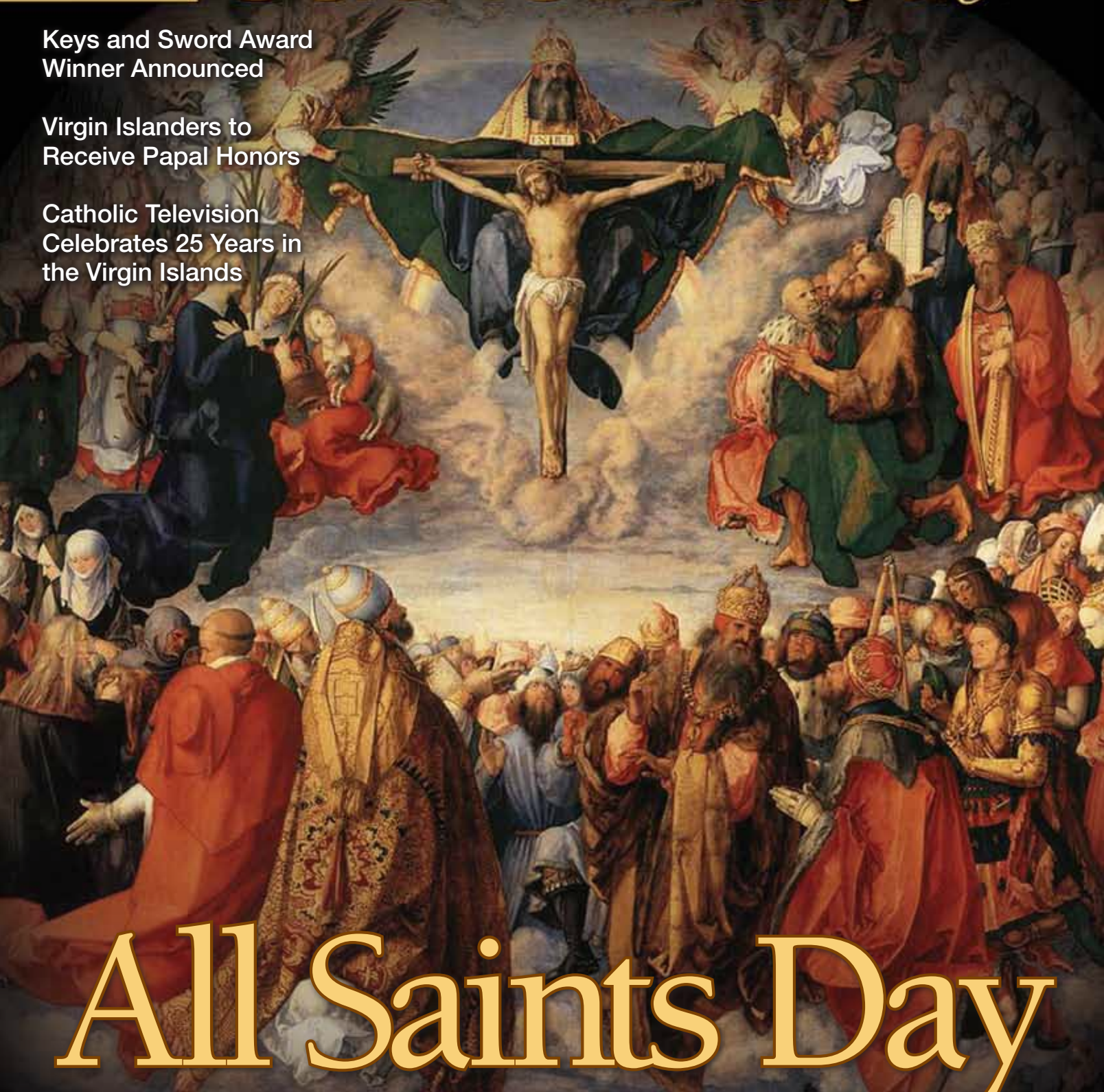
November 2010

# the Catholic *islander*

Keys and Sword Award  
Winner Announced

Virgin Islanders to  
Receive Papal Honors

Catholic Television  
Celebrates 25 Years in  
the Virgin Islands



# All Saints Day

NOVEMBER 1

# Keys and Sword Award Winner Announced



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

**the Catholic islander**  
The Newsletter 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 2010** issue of *the Catholic Islander* by **November 3, 2010.**

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**H**is Excellency, Bishop Herbert Bevard, will present Dr. Alfred Heath with the Keys and Sword Award at a dinner dance benefiting the Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral Restoration Project. The second annual event will be held at the Marriott Frenchman's Reef Resort and Hotel on St. Thomas on Saturday, January 22, 2011, at 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Heath will be the second recipient of the Keys and Sword Award. He is a parishioner, cantor, choir member and extraordinary minister of Holy Communion at the cathedral. He is a general practitioner, thoracic and vascular surgeon, educator, pilot, author and a 2010 recipient of the Virgin Islands Medal of Honor. He also is a humanitarian, coordinating several Haiti relief drives in the Virgin Islands.

The Keys and Sword Award, bestowed by the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, recognizes the extraordinary commitment and selfless dedication of the recipient in serving other individuals as well as the general community. The award honors one whose actions reflect the Gospel values of faith, selfless service, personal sacrifice, respect and valor. Centered on the symbols of the patron saints of the cathedral, this accolade celebrates that there are those among us whose vision and character rise above the norm.

Tickets are available for \$150. For more information, consult your parish bulletin, call (340) 774-3166, ext. 213, or send an e-mail to [keysandsword@vipowernet.net](mailto:keysandsword@vipowernet.net).

## Dedication of the Chapel of St. Therese-Shrine of the Divine Mercy

His Excellency, Bishop Herbert Bevard, dedicated the new Chapel of St. Therese-Shrine of the Divine Mercy next door to Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas on the memorial of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus on October 1. The ceremony began with Mass at the cathedral at 12:15 p.m., followed by a Eucharistic procession from the cathedral to the chapel.

Pictured right, His Excellency, Bishop Emeritus Elliott Thomas, whose family donated the building to the diocese, is shown with Bishop Bevard.



Monday, November 1, 9 a.m., Visitation, St. Patrick School, St. Croix.

Monday, November 1, 11 a.m., Visitation, Catholic Charities of the Virgin Islands, St. Croix.

Tuesday, November 2, 5:30 p.m., Benediction and All Souls Day Cemetery Vigil, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, St. Thomas.

Saturday, November 6, 6 p.m., Mass, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, St. John.

Sunday, November 7, 10:30 a.m., Mass, Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral, St. Thomas.

Friday, November 12, 2 p.m., Knights and Dames of Malta Investiture Mass, St. Patrick Cathedral, New York, New York.

Saturday, November 13, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Subcommittee on African-American Affairs meeting, Baltimore, Maryland.

November 15–18, USCCB Fall General Assembly, Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland.

November 20–21, Mission Appeal Masses, St. Helena Church, Bluebell, Pennsylvania.

Tuesday, November 23, 9:30 a.m., All-School Pre-Thanksgiving Mass, Ss. Joachim and Ann Church, St. Croix.

Wednesday, November 24, 8:15 a.m., Ss. Peter and Paul School Pre-Thanksgiving Mass, Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral, St. Thomas.

Thursday, November 25, 8:15 a.m., Thanksgiving Mass, Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral, St. Thomas.

Saturday, November 27, 6 p.m., Mass, St. Ann Church, St. Croix.

Sunday, November 28, 7 a.m. and 9:30 a.m., Mass, St. Ann Church, St. Croix.

## Knights and Dames of Malta Investiture Mass

Bishop Herbert Bevard and members of the Virgin Islands chapter of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta (The Order of Malta) American Association will attend an Investiture Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in New York City, New York, on Friday, November 12. Archbishop Timothy Dolan, the chaplain for the American Association, will be the celebrant. Suzanne Masters of St. Croix will be among the nearly 100 new members who will be invested at the Mass.

Bishop Bevard, Dr. Lina Batenga of St. Croix and John and Claire Foster and Jerry and Christine Woodhouse of St. Thomas also will attend the American Association's annual dinner at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel that evening. Mother Agnes Mary Donovan, SV, will be the speaker.

The Order of Malta is a worldwide lay religious order of the Roman Catholic Church. It seeks to glorify God by promoting the sanctification of each member through his or her work with the sick and the poor and witness of the Catholic faith.

## USCCB Subcommittee on African-American Affairs

Bishop Herbert Bevard will be attending a meeting of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Subcommittee on African-American Affairs (SCAAA) on Saturday, November 13, in Baltimore, Maryland. He and seven other bishops comprise the subcommittee.

The SCAAA is the official voice of the African-American Catholic community. The subcommittee attends to the needs and aspirations of African-American Catholics on ministry, evangelization, social justice, worship and other areas of concern. The subcommittee also seeks to be a resource for all the bishops and the entire Catholic Church in the United States. It aims to articulate the socio-cultural dimension of the African-American Catholic community and identify or create resources that would allow for an authentic integration of the richness of the African-American Catholic culture and the Catholic Church in the United States.

## Papal Honors

Pope Benedict XVI conferred the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* award to four parishioners of St. Ann Church on St. Croix on May 14. On behalf of the Holy Father, Bishop Herbert Bevard will present Sister Patricia Alexander, WIF, Lucy Bough, ODCS, Deacon Hyacinthe George and Aldon Rogers, SFO, with the pontifical medals and certificates on Sunday, November 28, at the 9:30 a.m. Mass. The presentation of the awards coincides with the parish's 40th anniversary, the diocese's 50th anniversary, and the parish's 40 Hours Devotion that weekend.

Msgr. Michael Kosak, pastor, recommended the four candidates to Bishop Bevard for their 30-plus years of outstanding assistance in the spiritual life, educational formation and community development of the parish and diocese. Bishop Bevard then nominated them to the papal nuncio, His Excellency, Pietro Sambì, for this honor.

The *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* ("for Church and Pope") medal was instituted initially by Pope Leo XIII on July 17, 1888, in memory of his golden sacerdotal jubilee. This decoration was made a permanent distinction in October 1898. Its object is to reward those who deserve well of the pope on account of services done for the Church.

## U.S. Bishops General Assembly

Bishop Herbert Bevard will attend the Fall General Assembly of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland, November 15–18. The bishops will elect the next president, vice president, general secretary and treasurer of the USCCB. Among other issues, the body of bishops will discuss and vote on a common agreement between the bishops' conference and four Reformed churches to recognize each other's baptism and on the request of the Pro-Life Activities Committee to begin drafting a brief policy statement against physician-assisted suicide.

## Pre-Thanksgiving School Masses

Bishop Herbert Bevard will celebrate two pre-Thanksgiving Masses for Catholic school students. Students of St. Joseph, St. Mary and St. Patrick Schools on St. Croix will be bussed to the Mass at St. Ann Church on Tuesday, November 23, at 9:30 a.m. Students of Ss. Peter and Paul School on St. Thomas will attend the Mass at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on Wednesday, November 24, at 8:15 a.m.

## Cathedral Restoration Contract Is Signed

His Excellency, Bishop Herbert Bevard, and Msgr. Jerome Feudjio, rector of Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas, signed a contract with Balbo Construction on the veranda of the parish rectory on October 13. Earlier this year the members of the Cathedral Restoration Committee selected the contracting firm to repair the roof, strengthen the supporting columns and divert the underground brook that threatens the integrity of the building. According to Gerard "Balbo" Castor, scaffolds will be erected outside the cathedral on November 1, as his team evaluates the project. The actual work will begin a week later.

Pictured at the table, left to right, are Gerard "Balbo" Castor, Msgr. Feudjio, Bishop Bevard, architect Robert deJongh and project manager Louis Gomez. Members of the Cathedral Restoration Committee are standing around them.



## Prayers Solicited

Prayers are solicited for Deacon William Summer, formerly of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church on St. Thomas. He suffered a heart attack in St. Petersburg, Florida, on October 4. The doctors inserted two stents and he is recovering well.

## Second Collection

Parishes will have a second collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) on November 20–21.

Founded in 1969, the CCHD is the domestic anti-poverty and social justice program of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Its mission is to address the root causes of poverty in America through promotion and support of community-controlled, self-help organizations and through transformative education. The grants, economic development, and education for justice programs of the campaign, implemented in collaboration with local dioceses, are supported from an annual collection in U.S. Catholic parishes.

## Thanksgiving Meals for the Needy

Several parishes in the diocese will have a blessing of bread and other foods at morning Masses and then prepare meals for the needy on Thanksgiving Day, November 25.

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.

## Raffles

St. Patrick Church and St. Patrick School on St. Croix have set the prizes for their annual Thanksgiving raffle. The first prize is \$7,500, the second prize is \$3,500, the third prize is \$1,000 and the fourth prize is \$500. Tickets are available in the parish office for \$5; a book of 12 raffle tickets is \$50. The drawing will be held at the Quadrille at St. Gerard Hall on Friday, November 26.

Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas is raffling a 2010 Mitsubishi Outlander, a Caribbean Cruise for two and a weekend hotel package for two. Tickets are available at the parish office for \$10; a book of 11 chances is \$100. The drawing has been rescheduled for Sunday, December 5.

The Knights of Columbus Council 6482 has its second annual Basket of Cheer Raffle to benefit the Catholic schools on St. Croix. Last year nearly \$500 was raised for the scholarship fund. Three winners will receive a “basket of cheer.” Tickets are available from the Knights and the parishes for \$2. The drawing is on Thursday, December 16.

St. Anne Chapel on St. Thomas is selling tickets for its annual Christmas raffle. This raffle is known for usually having more prizes than any parish raffle. Fifteen prizes have been announced so far, with possibly more to come. The first prize is 10 sheets of lottery tickets. Additional prizes include two round-trip tickets to Tortola, gift certificates, restaurant dinners, a pedicure and manicure, a chain and pendant, a 90” x 72” tablecloth, a 36” porcelain doll and cash. Tickets are available for \$1. The drawing will be held at the St. Anne Chapel social hall at Sunday brunch after Mass on December 26.

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

Religious Education students 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.

## Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week

Catholic Charities of the Virgin Islands and other members of the Interagency Council and Continuum of Care will participate in National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week on November 14–20. This is the eighth 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 13, and Sunday, November 14.

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.

## Catholic Charities Centennial Liturgy

Michael Akin, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Virgin Islands, joined thousands of others at a liturgy at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., to celebrate 100 years of Catholic Charities USA on September 25. Representatives from local Catholic Charities agencies across the United States, national and international Catholic leaders and consumers of Catholic Charities’ services attended the celebration. Mr. Akin was among those bringing the gifts to the altar at the Sunday Mass celebrated by Archbishop Timothy Dolan.

## Homeless Shelter Repairs

The bathrooms at Bethlehem House Shelter on St. Thomas soon will be repaired, thanks to recent private donations. Catholic Charities of the Virgin Islands received a \$1,000 donation from the St. Thomas Synagogue and a commitment of \$4,000 from Rotary Club St. Thomas, thanks to the efforts of Marilyn Blackhall of the Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas and Odile de Lyrot of St. Anne Chapel. The women’s bathroom at the shelter will have new fixtures, flooring and an additional shower; and general repairs will be made to the men’s bathroom.





### Rosary Crusades

Nearly 100 Catholics in the Virgin Islands joined in the nationwide 2010 Public Square Rosary Crusade on October 16. Pictured above left, about 50 people participated in the rally called by the Legion of Mary, which was held at Emancipation



Garden on St. Thomas. Pictured above right, another 40 people gathered at St. Patrick Church on St. Croix; they marched in prayer around the Legislature building and Lagoon project and concluded with Marian devotions in the church.

### Deacons Celebrate First Anniversary

Father Charles Crespo, administrator of St. Anne Chapel on St. Thomas, prayed a blessing over Deacon Bernard Gibs (left) and Deacon Clement Danet on their first anniversary as clergy at the end of Mass on September 26.



### 100th Birthday

May Rosalie, a parishioner of Holy Family Church on St. Thomas, celebrated her 100th birthday on October 7. Her pastor, Father Neil Scantlebury, celebrated Mass in her home. He was accompanied by his father, Deacon Keith Scantlebury, who was visiting from Barbados, as well as parishioners and members of the Rosalie family.



### Magnificat Prayer Breakfast

The St. Thomas/St. John chapter of Magnificat, an international ministry for Catholic women, hosted a prayer breakfast at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral's Hospitality Lounge on St. Thomas on October 2. Carmen Sibilly of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church was the featured speaker.

Pictured left to right are Master of Ceremonies Cynthia Smith, Msgr. Jerome Feudjio, Ms. Sibilly and Bishop Herbert Bevard.



### Confirmation Candidates

Msgr. Michael Kosak, pastor of St. Ann Church on St. Croix, introduced 15 candidates for confirmation to the parish at Sunday Mass on October 10, where they made a public commitment to be faithful to their parish and the community. They are pictured with their pastor, sponsors and teachers before Mass.

### Dominica Independence Day Masses

Dominica will celebrate 32 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, **October 31**.

Two priests will come from Dominica to celebrate the Masses in the Virgin Islands. Father Jason Grell will celebrate Mass at Holy Family Church on St. Thomas at 11 a.m., and Father Elveau Augustine will celebrate Mass at St. Ann Church on St. Croix at 9:30 a.m.

### Fall Festival

Ss. Peter and Paul School on St. Thomas is having its first annual Fall Festival on Saturday, **November 6**, from noon to 3 p.m. There will be entertainment, food, carnival games and prizes. Activities include a dunk tank, face painting, tug-of-war and eating contests. The public is invited to attend.

### Missa Brevis

The Diocesan Choir will sing selections from *Missa Brevis*, by Franz Joseph Haydn, at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas on Sunday, **November 7**, at the 10:30 a.m. Mass. The performances will include the *Kyrie*, the *Gloria*, the *Credo*, the *Sanctus*, the *Benedictus* and the *Agnus Dei*. Bishop Herbert Bevard will be the celebrant.

### 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 26**, at 10 p.m. The winner of the raffle sponsored by the parish and St. Patrick School will be drawn that evening. Tickets for the dance are available at the parish office for \$10.

### Nuestra Señora de la Divina Providencia, Patroness of Puerto Rico

Two parishes will celebrate the feast day 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 the vigil on Thursday, **November 18**, and Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas will celebrate on the actual feast day, Friday, **November 19**. Both Masses will be at 7 p.m., followed by a reception with traditional Puerto Rican dishes in the parishes' 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.

### Teachings on the Rosary

Father John Mark, pastor of St. Joseph Church on St. Croix, will present a series of teachings on the rosary. He will teach in English on three Sundays beginning **November 28** at 4 p.m. and in Spanish on three Thursdays beginning **December 2** at 7 p.m. The programs will consist of a half hour of teaching, followed by Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction.

### Pre-Christmas Concert

The Prayers, Hymns and Praise Steel Orchestra of Holy Family Church on St. Thomas will headline a pre-Christmas concert at Columban Hall on Sunday, **November 28**, at 5 p.m. Guest artists from other churches will perform as well. Tickets are available at the parish for \$10, and refreshments will be sold.

### 40 Hours Devotion Celebrates Diocesan Anniversary

St. Ann Church on St. Croix will have a 40 Hours Devotion to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Prelature/ Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands on Saturday, **November 27**.

It will be a day of intercessory prayer, but will be limited in time. The day will begin with the 8:30 a.m. Mass and Bishop Herbert Bevard will conclude the service with the 6 p.m. Mass. Those gathered will pray for Bishop Herbert Bevard, priests, deacons and the faithful of the diocese. Bishop Bevard also will celebrate the evening Mass and the two morning Masses the next day.

The United States Virgin Islands were separated from Puerto Rico and became a prelate on July 23, 1960. Bishop Edward Harper, CSSR, was named the prelate of the Virgin Islands. The prelate then was erected as the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands on April 20, 1977, in the presence of Cardinal Baum and Archbishop Jadot. Bishop Harper became its bishop.

The 40 Hours Devotion is a Catholic tradition from the 16th century in which continuous prayer is made for 40 hours before the exposed Blessed Sacrament, beginning and ending with Mass. The exact period of exposition is no longer necessarily 40 hours; in Scripture, the number 40 generally was an expression that indicated a lengthy, but not precise, time.



# Keys and Sword Award Benefit

*The Diocese of St. Thomas  
In the Virgin Islands Presents*

## *Second Annual Keys and Sword Award Benefit*

Dr. Alfred Heath will receive the 2011 Keys and Sword Award, which recognizes extraordinary commitment and selfless dedication in service to others.

**Mark Your Calendars!**  
**Saturday, January 22, 2011, at 6:30 p.m.**

**Marriott Frenchman's Reef Beach Resort,  
St. Thomas**

**Dinner – Awards – Dancing – Raffles  
and Silent Auction**

**Proceeds support the Ss. Peter and Paul  
Cathedral Restoration Project**

## Todos los Santos

Los católicos celebran la Solemnidad de Todos los Santos el 1 de noviembre. Esta solemnidad es uno de los seis días de guardar en el rito latino de las diócesis en los Estados Unidos. Sin embargo, en conformidad con la ley canónica #1246, este año el precepto de asistir a la Misa ese día se anula por caer esta solemnidad un día lunes.

## Segunda Colecta

Las parroquias tendrán una segunda colecta para la Campaña de Desarrollo Humano (CCHD) el 20 y 21 de noviembre. La CCHD fue fundada en 1969 por la Conferencia de Obispos de los Estados Unidos y es un programa doméstico en contra de la pobreza y para la justicia social.

## Nuestra Señora de la Divina Providencia

Dos parroquias celebrarán la fiesta de Nuestra Señora de la Divina Providencia, patrona de Puerto Rico, con Misas en español. La Iglesia San José en Sta. Cruz celebrará la vigilia el jueves, 18 de noviembre, y la Catedral San Pedro y San Pablo en Sto. Tomás celebrará en el día actual, el viernes, 19 de noviembre. Ambas Misas serán y a las 7 p.m., seguidas por recepciones en sus salones sociales.

Nuestra Señora de la Divina Providencia es uno de los muchos títulos de María, la Madre de Jesús. Nuestra Señora de la Divina Providencia ha sido la patrona de Puerto Rico por aproximadamente 150 años.

## Día de Acción de Gracias

En el Día de Acción de Gracias, el 25 de noviembre, voluntarios de la Iglesia Holy Cross en Sta. Cruz prepararán y repartirán acerca 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.

## Domingo Catequético

El Padre John Mark, párroco de la Iglesia San José en Sta. Cruz, oró sobre los catequistas y sus ayudantes al fin de la Misa en el Domingo Catequético, el 26 de septiembre. Las clases han comenzado.



## Enseñanzas sobre el Rosario

Padre John Mark, párroco de la Iglesia San José en Sta. Cruz, presentará unas series de enseñanzas sobre el rosario como parte del tiempo de Adviento. Las conferencias en inglés serán por tres domingos consecutivos comenzando el 28 de noviembre a las 4 p.m. Las conferencias en español serán por tres jueves consecutivos comenzando el 2 de diciembre a las 7 p.m. Las presentaciones consistirán en media hora de enseñanzas y media hora de adoración seguida por la bendición.

## 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 29 de noviembre y el último lunes de cada mes a las 7 p.m.

La Catedral San Pedro y San Pablo en Sto. Tomás tiene Horas Santas bilingües con Exposición del Santísimo y Bendición los martes a las 5.30 p.m.

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 p.m.

## Legión de María

El Presidio María, Arca de la Alianza, se reúne en el Salón de Hospitalidad de la Catedral San Pedro y San Pablo en Sto. Tomás los domingos a las 2 p.m.

## 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.

## Protección de Niños

La Diócesis de Sto. Tomás en las Islas Vírgenes está comprometida a proteger a los niños de todo daño. Si Ud. tiene conocimiento de algún sacerdote, diácono o empleado de la iglesia que haya abusado de algún menor, favor de comunicarse inmediatamente con la Coordinadora Diocesana de la Protección de los Niños, Callista Julien, al (340) 774-3166 o (340) 719-4020.

## Rosarios en las Casas

El Padre Janvier Sidjeu, CICM, de la Catedral San Pedro y San Pablo en Sto. Tomás dio reflexiones sobre la fe en las casas de feligreses cada noche en octubre celebrando el mes del rosario.



## Seeking New Principal

Following the relocation of Terry Johnson to the continental United States in September, a search committee was assembled to seek a new principal for St. Mary School on St. Croix. Advertisements were placed in the *Virgin Islands Daily News* and the *St. Croix Avis* soliciting an educator, preferably a Catholic, with a master's degree and five years of experience in administration. Applicants should submit resumes to the school.

## Mock Elections for Governor

The Virgin Islands History classes at Ss. Peter and Paul School on St. Thomas will be conducting a mock election for the gubernatorial candidates. Students will read about each candidate's political viewpoints and then vote during lunchtime by completing a ballot and entering it into the ballot box. The students will tally the votes and announce the winner.

## Alumni Directory

The Knights of Columbus on St. Croix are updating the alumni directory for St. Joseph High School. The Knights are planning a quarterly newsletter and alumni events. Graduates should contact the school with their current addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses and any information they may have on other alumni.

## Clean-Up Day

Student Council members of Ss. Peter and Paul School on St. Thomas are planning a school-wide campus clean-up morning on Monday, November 15. Students, teachers and parents will do general maintenance, cleaning, painting and landscaping. Once the cleanup is completed, there will be a Pep Rally to celebrate students' achievements. It is a half day for students and the teachers will participate in professional development activities in the afternoon.

## Catechetical Sunday

Father Louis Kemayou, pastor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on St. John, commissioned the religious education catechists at Mass on Catechetical Sunday, September 26. Pictured, left to right, are: Mary Athanase, Celine Joseph, Andrea Joseph, Caroline Smith, Father Kemayou, Marcia Pickering, Justina Abraham and Angela LaPlace.



## Accreditation Workshop

Brother James Petrait, OSFS, science teacher at St. Joseph High School on St. Croix, attended Middle States Association workshops in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, September 22–23. He will help the school staff prepare for the next seven-year accreditation cycle.

Brother Petrait has taught at St. Joseph High School for 22 years, longer than anyone

has been at the school. He has been teaching high school science for 49 years and is currently teaching chemistry.

He is pictured above (left) with presenter Michael Devitt at the workshop.



## School Mass Launches Awareness of the Rosary

Father John Mark, president of St. Joseph High School on St. Croix, celebrated Mass for the students at his parish, St. Joseph Church, on October 1. The Mass celebrated the feast day of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus and launched the Month of the Rosary. At the end of the Mass, Father Mark explained the rosary, and then blessed rosaries that were distributed to all of the students, along with a pamphlet explaining how to pray the rosary. All recited the first decade of the Joyful Mysteries. During the month of October, a decade of the rosary was prayed daily during assembly.

Pictured, left to right, are Enrique Arroyo (Grade 11), Father Mark and Benjamin Alicea, Jr.

### Blessing of Pets

Father Kenneth Gaddy, CSsR, pastor of Holy Cross Church on St. Croix, blessed pets at the annual block party between the church and St. Mary School on October 2. The festivities, commemorating the memorial of St. Francis of Assisi and his love for animals, included pet contests, donkey rides, face painting, food, games and entertainment, including performances by the St. Mary School Choir of Angels. In addition, the Humane Society offered opportunities for participants to adopt a pet.



photo essay



### Blessing of Pets

Father Charles Crespo, administrator of St. Anne Chapel on St. Thomas, briefly taught the lower school students at Ss. Peter and Paul School about St. Francis of Assisi on the saint's feast day, October 4, and then blessed the students' dogs, cats, rabbits, fish and turtles.

### Child Protection Seminar for Youth

Religious education catechists, students and parents of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on St. John attended a VIRTUS child protection seminar in the Guadalupe Hall on October 2.



### Freshman Initiation Day

St. Joseph High School on St. Croix had Freshman Initiation Day on October 1. At right, guidance counselor John Irwin served chicken to students outside the faculty room.



## Catholic Television Celebrates 25 Years in the Virgin Islands

The Caribbean Catholic Network (CCN) on St. Croix celebrates its 25th anniversary on local television on November 1. The Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands began transmitting on Channel 19 on St. Croix on All Saints Day, 1985. Father Michael Kosak and his communications team at St. Ann Church had a few videocassette recorders and a library of religious programming. St. Croix Cable TV donated a modulator and character generator, and the engineers tapped into Mother Angelica's satellite transponder. Finally, the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN), together with CCN, started to broadcast 24 hours a day/seven

days a week. When St. Croix Cable TV became Innovative Cable TV-St. Croix, the Catholic television channel was changed to Channel 7.

The Catholic Television Network (CTN-Channel 16) on St. Thomas and St. John began similar programming on Christmas 1986.

CCN-Channel 7 staff members, from left to right, are: Jayanne Thomas, Jeff Bethelmie, Ronan Sylvester, Michael Matthews, Msgr. Michael Kosak and Marlon Braithwaite. Peter John-Baptiste and Tristian Jones also are on staff.



### Youth Group Launched

The youth group at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on St. John gathered in the Guadalupe Hall on October 4 to organize spiritually filled activities that will provide opportunities for them to serve the parish and the community. Father Louis Kemayou, pastor, reminded the participants that they are the Church of today. Meetings are on Mondays at 5 p.m.

# All Saints Day

## NOVEMBER 1

Catholics celebrate the solemnity of All Saints on November 1. This solemnity is among the six holy days of obligation in the Latin Rite dioceses of the United States of America, in conformity with canon 1246 of the Code of Canon Law. This year, however, the precept to attend Mass is abrogated because the solemnity falls on a Monday.



All Saints Day honors all saints, both known and unknown, and is a national holiday in many traditionally Catholic countries. The observance of this day varies from performing a specific play (Mexico) to lighting candles and visiting the graves of deceased relatives (Poland, Czech Republic), to placing flowers on the graves of loved ones (France, Spain).

The faithful have observed this feast since the early days of Christianity. Initially, the veneration of saints and martyrs was not a universal concept; rather, local churches would honor local saints according to their own calendar. Often, a solemn anniversary would be celebrated for a martyr at the location of his or her martyrdom. Then, in the early seventh century, Pope Boniface IV consecrated the pantheon in Rome to the Blessed Virgin and all the martyrs, but the chosen day for the anniversary was May 13. The origin of the present-day feast of All Saints on November 1 is traced to Gregory III in the eighth century, when he consecrated a chapel in the Basilica of St. Peter to all the saints and established the anniversary on the first day of November.

Although many saints have their own feast day, the feast of All Saints honors the many unnamed, unknown witnesses to their

Christian faith who also are saints and are with God in heaven. The concept of All Saints Day is tied in with the concept of the communion of saints, which refers to the belief that all God's people — in heaven, on earth and in purgatory — are connected in "communion." We are in spiritual communion with those saints no longer on earth through our common bond with Jesus Christ, and our prayers join with their prayers. They are constantly interceding on our behalf.

The following is an All Saints prayer that Catholics pray during the *Liturgy of the Hours*:

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God, today we rejoice in the holy men and women of every time and place. May their prayers bring us your forgiveness and love. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## All Souls Day

All Souls Day is November 2. On that day, Catholics traditionally are invited to pray for those souls still in purgatory. The faithful on earth can help the departed souls who have not been perfectly cleansed from sin or have not fully atoned for past transgressions by offering prayers, alms and the sacrifice of the Mass. This day intentionally follows All Saints Day to shift focus from those in heaven to those souls in purgatory. Catholics pray for these souls to have their sins cleansed and to be received into heaven.

The custom of setting aside a day to pray for the departed was first observed in the 10th century in an abbey in France. From there, it spread to other dioceses in France and then to other areas in the Western Church. Although All Souls Day has been November 2 for many centuries, the whole month of November has become associated with praying for the dead.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church on St. Thomas will celebrate All Souls Day all day. The program begins with Mass at 7 a.m., followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament all day and Benediction, and then closes with a candlelight vigil and the blessing of graves at the adjoining cemetery. Bishop Herbert Bevard will lead the Benediction in the church at 5:30 p.m. and the procession to the cemetery at 6 p.m.

# Pope Benedict's UK Visit

## The News Everybody Missed

By Raymond Arroyo

The Pope saved the most important news of his visit to the United Kingdom for the end. Most people did not even hear or see it. But I imagine Thomas More and John Henry Newman were smiling ...

In November of 2009, Pope Benedict issued an extraordinary invitation to Anglicans disaffected by the changes taking place in their communion. The failure to affirm traditional Christian orthodoxy, the ordination of gays and the recent push to create female Anglican bishops have splintered the communion and caused heartbreak among both clergy and laity. Anglicans all over the world — parishes, and some dioceses — had petitioned Rome to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church. As a “pastoral response” the pope released his Apostolic Constitution, *Anglicanorum Coetibus*. It allows individual Anglicans, clergy and even whole dioceses to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church while retaining their traditions, devotions and liturgical practices.

The archbishop of Canterbury (according to a few Anglican officials with whom I spoke) felt “ambushed by the constitution” and was frustrated that there was not more “consultation” before its release. Standing shoulder to shoulder with the archbishop of Canterbury at an ecumenical prayer service at Westminster Abbey last week, the pope made the case for “Christian unity,” while recalling the real world challenges that block the way. The pope said “fidelity,” which demands obedience to God’s “true word,” was needed: “an obedience which must be free of intellectual conformism or facile accommodation to the spirit of the age.” The pope was clearly referencing the recent actions by the Anglican Church that had “accommodated the spirit of the age” and created lasting barriers to the goal of full unity. But the pope was so genial, and his delivery so mild, that the tough talk received little coverage and was largely ignored.

Then came the last speech of the Pope’s visit, a meeting

with his bishops of England, Scotland and Wales. Near the end of the address, Pope Benedict made his intentions plain, and cast new light on all that he had said and done since his arrival in Britain. He told his bishops: “I asked you

to be generous in implementing the Apostolic Constitution, *Anglicanorum Coetibus*. This should be seen as a prophetic gesture that can contribute positively to the developing relations between Anglicans and Catholics. It helps us to set our sights on the ultimate goal of all ecumenical activity: the restoration of full ecclesial communion in the context of which the mutual exchange of gifts from our respective spiritual patrimonies serves as an enrichment to us all. Let us continue to pray and work unceasingly in order to hasten the joyful day when that goal can be accomplished.”

In other words, the pope sees his Anglican “fast pass” into the Catholic Church as the fruit of ecumenism — a chance for Anglicans to return to the faith of their fathers before the Reformation and to protect themselves from an insidious secularism that is plaguing society at-large, and their communion in particular.

With this understanding, the symbolic and stated message of Pope Benedict during his British sojourn comes into stark relief. His meeting with the Catholic and Anglican bishops at Lambeth Palace, the home of the archbishop of Canterbury for 800 years (the first 70 archbishops of Canterbury were Catholics); his visit to Westminster Abbey (built by the Catholic King Henry III and home to Benedictine monks until the Reformation); his moving speech at Westminster Hall (where Catholic

martyrs Thomas More, Edmund Campion, Bishop John Fisher and others were condemned to death for their refusal to disavow their faith); and, finally, his beatification of the 19th century Anglican convert to Catholicism, Blessed John Henry Newman, suddenly all seems one piece. Benedict’s visit was a stand against relativism in the heart of Europe and a plea for Britain to return to herself — to return to her Catholic roots. In a visit worthy of his predecessor, Pope Benedict, with precise language and symbols, communicated a message that will long be felt in England. It was a message controversial and reasonable, bold and utterly faithful — a simple call, really: England, come home to what you were meant to be, and truly are.

— Raymond Arroyo is the news director at Eternal Word Television Network.



The Holy Father visited Great Britain on September 16–19.

## Priest of the Month: Msgr. Jerome Feudjio

**M**sgr. Jerome Feudjio celebrated his 20th anniversary in the priesthood on September 29. He is rector of Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas, where he has spent most of his priesthood. He also holds diocesan positions as the vicar for clergy and religious, moderator of the curia and director of vocations.

Msgr. Feudjio was born in Dschang, a city in the mountains of the western province of Cameroon, Africa. He completed his secondary and college studies, focused on liberal arts and accounting, and most of his theological formation in Cameroon. He then went to the United States to study business, but discovered that he did not like being away from the Church. He moved to Washington, D.C., where he met Father Sean O'Malley (now Cardinal O'Malley, the archbishop of Boston).

As a native French speaker, Msgr. Feudjio did not speak English very well and Father O'Malley spoke to him in French. Msgr. Feudjio also recalls that Father O'Malley took him to a restaurant where he tasted his first pizza. At that time, Father O'Malley wished to establish a community for Central American and Haitian seminarians who had to flee their native lands, and Msgr. Feudjio became involved in this community. He joined the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate and ministered to Haitian immigrants.

Msgr. Feudjio considers Cardinal O'Malley his mentor — he encouraged and motivated him at this time of his life and eventually encouraged him to return to the seminary. He completed his seminary formation at Washington Theological Union in Washington, D.C. When Father O'Malley was made bishop of the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, he invited Msgr. Feudjio to join him, and ordained him a diocesan priest at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas on September 29, 1990.

Msgr. Feudjio keeps very busy in his diocesan positions, working closely with Bishop Herbert Bevard and also with clergy, religious and seminarians. As the moderator of the curia, he represents Bishop Bevard when he is away and makes decisions that cannot wait until the bishop returns. His position as vicar for clergy and religious makes him the intermediary between the priests and religious of the diocese and Bishop Bevard. For example, when a new or visiting priest or religious comes to serve the diocese, Msgr. Feudjio performs background checks. As director of vocations, he is in charge of the four seminarians of the diocese currently studying for the priesthood.

As rector of the cathedral, Msgr. Feudjio oversees its restoration. Architects discovered several years ago that water was seeping under the building and weakening the structure. Repairs were essential. Bishop Bevard realized that Msgr. Feudjio had a passion for the cathedral and this



Msgr. Jerome Feudjio in the studio at CTN-Channel 16. He recently converted the cable television station from an analog to a digital system.

type of work and asked him to spearhead the process. Since then, Msgr. Feudjio has worked with contractors, architects and project managers to design the best plan to restore the cathedral and save the frescos on the ceiling.

Msgr. Feudjio also directs the television ministry on St. Thomas. Much of the programming comes from Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN), but the television station also broadcasts local programs, including Masses in both Spanish and English. He is especially proud that the station has been able to reach Spanish-speaking people who might be new to St. Thomas, or not even Catholic, but enjoy watching the Spanish Mass. Msgr. Feudjio finds that the television ministry is a powerful tool for reaching out to the community.

In his first years on St. Thomas, he learned a great deal about computers by observing others and experimenting on his own computer in his free time. He became very proficient with computer technology and now would like to train students to use cameras and edit video so the station can feature more local programming. If Msgr. Feudjio can train more students in this technology, he would like to be able to broadcast more local Masses and programs from the schools.

At the request of Bishop George Murry in 2002, Pope John Paul II invested Father Feudjio as Chaplain to His Holiness and so he was granted the honorary title of monsignor. Msgr. Feudjio loves the climate and the hospitality of the people on St. Thomas. When he looks around him, he sees a mosaic of God's people in all colors, and he feels very welcome. He also enjoys working with the young people at Ss. Peter and Paul School. When a teacher asks him to visit the school and he expects to stay for one hour, he often ends up visiting with all the different grade levels and staying for much longer. He was very proud on September 29 when his mentor, Cardinal O'Malley, sent a gift and called to congratulate him on the 20th anniversary of his priesthood. Throughout his 20 years in the Virgin Islands, Msgr. Feudjio has been a leader in the many ministries in which he has served. ☺

# St. Thomas Calendar

## Holy Hours/ Eucharistic Adoration

- **St. Therese Chapel-Divine Mercy Shrine** has Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction on Mondays to Fridays from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church** has Exposition and Benediction on Tuesdays from 7:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. and on Fridays from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral** has a Holy Hour with Exposition and Benediction on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.
- **Holy Family Church** and **St. Anne Chapel** have Holy Hours with Exposition and Benediction on Fridays at 6 p.m., followed by Mass at 7 p.m.

## Rosary Walk

**Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral** hosts a rosary walk on November 6 and the first Saturday of every month at 7 a.m., followed by Mass at 7:30 a.m.

## Magnificat

Magnificat, an international ministry to Catholic women, meets at **Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral's Hospitality Lounge** on November 6 and the first Saturday of every 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 6 and the first Saturday of every month at 4 p.m.



## French Mass

Father Janvier Sidjeu, CICM, gave a birthday blessing to Laura Mayes at the end of the French Mass at St. Anne Chapel on St. Thomas on October 3. Mass is celebrated in French at **St. Anne Chapel** on November 7 and the first Sunday of every month at 10 a.m.

## St. Joseph Workers

The St. Joseph Workers meet at **Holy Family Church's Columban Hall** on November 7 at 9:30 a.m. Normally they meet on the second Sunday of every month.

## Holy Name Society

Catholic men meet at **Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral's Hospitality Lounge** on November 8 and the second Monday of each month at 6 p.m.

## Bingo

- **Holy Family Church** has bingo in **Columban Hall** on two Fridays, November 12 and 26, at 8 p.m.
- **Ss. Peter and Paul School** has bingo in the cafeteria on Friday, November 19, at 6 p.m.

## Franciscan Spirituality

The Lady Clare of Assisi Fraternity shares Franciscan spirituality at **Holy Family Church's Columban Hall** on November 13 and the second Saturday of every month at 1 p.m.

## Catholic Daughters of America

Court 2049 meets at **Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral's Hospitality Lounge** on November 20 and the third Saturday of every month at 3 p.m.

## St. Vincent de Paul Society

The Young Vincentians meet on November 21 and the third Sunday of every month at 11:30 a.m. The adult members meet on November 28 and the fourth Saturday of every month at 3:30 p.m. Both groups meet in **Holy Family Church's classroom**.

## All-Day Prayer Vigil

**Holy Family Church** will have an all-day prayer vigil with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament beginning on Friday, November 26, after a 6 a.m. Mass and ending with Benediction and Mass at 7 p.m.

## Knights of Columbus

Council 6187 meets at **Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral's Yellow Room** on the first and third Sunday of every month at 10 a.m.

## Legion of Mary

- **Presidium María, Arca de la Alianza**, holds meetings in Spanish at **Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral's Hospitality Lounge** on Sundays at 2 p.m.
- **Presidium Mary, Mystical Rose**, meets in **Holy Family Church's classroom** on Sundays at 3 p.m.
- **Presidium Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces**, meets at the **St. Anne Chapel Hall** on Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

## Divine Mercy Chaplet

The St. Thomas altar servers lead the prayers of the Divine Mercy chaplet at **Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral** on Mondays at 3 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.

## Our Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions

Devotions to Our Mother of Perpetual Help are prayed before Mass on Wednesdays at **Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral** at 6:45 a.m. and noon, at **Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church** at 5:45 p.m., at **Holy Family Church** at 6:50 p.m. and at **St. Anne Chapel** at 7:15 p.m.

## Pro-Life Rosary

A Pro-Life Rosary is prayed at **Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church** on Wednesdays at the 5:15 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. Croix Calendar

## Holy Hours/ Eucharistic Adoration

- **Holy Cross Church** has Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction on November 5 and the first Friday of every month from 9 a.m. to noon.
- **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 St. Ann Chapel on Fridays at 5:30 p.m.
- **St. Joseph Church** has a Holy Hour with Exposition and Benediction on Fridays at 6:30 p.m.

## Santo Niño

**St. Joseph Church** hosts devotions to Santo Niño (the Holy Child Jesus) on November 6 and the first Saturday of every month at 4:30 p.m. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered during this time.

## Pro-Life Prayer Vigil

The St. Croix Right to Life Committee will hold a prayer vigil outside the abortion clinic at **Beeston Hill** on Tuesday, November 9, at 10 a.m.

## Evenings of Charismatic Prayer

- **St. Patrick Church** has charismatic prayer in the chapel on November 19 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.

## Magnificat

Magnificat, an international ministry to Catholic women, meets at **Franciscan House** on November 21 and the third Sunday of each month at 3 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 28 and the fourth Sunday of every 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 28 and the fourth Sunday of every month at 2 p.m.

## Cursillo Prayer Group

The Cursillo Movement hosts a Spanish prayer meeting in the **St. Michael Chapel at St. Joseph Church** on November 29 and the last Monday of every 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 English as a Second Language on Monday through Thursday mornings.

## Devotions to St. Gerard Majella

**Holy Cross Church** prays a devotion to St. Gerard Majella on Tuesdays at 8:45 a.m.

## 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.

## Our Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions

Devotions to Our Mother of Perpetual Help are prayed at **St. Patrick Church** on Wednesdays at 6:30 a.m. and 8 a.m. **Holy Cross Church** prays the devotion on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 8:45 a.m. **St. Joseph Church** prays the devotion bilingually on Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

## 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 every 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 Thursday of every 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 Mary, Our Lady of Grace, meets in the **Holy Cross Church rectory** on Saturdays at 4:30 p.m.



## Parishioners Recognition Dinner

Six parishioners of Holy Cross Church on St. Croix were honored at the parish's annual Recognition Dinner at Teddy's Restaurant on September 17. Pictured, left to right, are: Enid Schjang, Carole Pimentel, Evita Patton, Melba Schjang, Carmen Andersen and Charlita Schjang.

# St. John Calendar

## Healing Mass

**Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church** has a healing Mass on November 3 and the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.

## 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.

## 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.

## Charismatic Prayer

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

## Pride of the Parish

Christine Greaux and Florence Quetel were among the faithful who helped mop after a week of torrential October rains left large puddles in St. Anne Chapel on St. Thomas.



# St. Martin de Porres

**Feast Day:** November 3

Sixteenth-century Peru was not a good time or place to be a multiracial child, but that is the world St. Martin de Porres was born into. The son of a Spanish nobleman and a free black woman, Martin was rejected by his father because he was too dark-skinned, and by blacks and Indians in Lima because of his ethnic background. But Martin did not become bitter. Instead, he reached out to others and turned their rejection into respect.

Martin's father eventually acknowledged his son, and apprenticed him to a barber, where Martin learned to cut hair and also perform the services of a doctor and pharmacist. Even as a young man, he earned a reputation for healing and became well-known among the blacks and Indians. But as Martin's fame as a healer spread, so did his desire to dedicate his life to God.

His decision to enter the Dominican monastery as a lay brother – and not as a religious brother or priest – angered Martin's father, who wanted his son to aim higher. Martin was happy being a servant in the monastery, sweeping, doing laundry and dishes and caring for the sick. When some of the brothers insulted him and treated him badly because of his race and low social status, Martin merely smiled or laughed and treated them as friends. Eventually, his humility overcame



their derision and they became his disciples.

Although Martin was content with the lowest place in the monastery, the brothers finally convinced him to make his religious profession as a brother. His care of the sick who came to the monastery soon made him famous, and many people were healed by his touch. Martin also went out from the monastery into the street to find people who needed his help. He gave them medicine, bandages and religious instruction – healing both body and soul.

Not everyone was willing to receive help from the saint, however. Spanish families that had fallen on hard times would rather starve than accept help from a multiracial man. So Martin had a white friend deliver food, clothing and medicine to these families, because he refused to neglect them, even if they rejected him.

Martin's care and healing extended even to animals. When the brothers at the monastery complained about the rats and mice that were raiding the kitchen stores, Martin solved the problem by setting out food for the rodents – in return for their promise that they would not infest the monastery kitchens anymore. The rats and mice obeyed him and the problem was solved.

Martin used his healing touch and his wisdom to stop arguments between family members and to mend divisions when his brother monks criticized each other. Because of his humility and piety, people listened to Martin and settled their differences.

By the time Martin reached the end of his life at age 60, people throughout Peru – African slaves, native Indians, and Spanish nobles – were coming to the saint for advice and counsel. The conflicts of prejudice and racism could not stand in the face of Martin's boundless charity and love for others.

Pope John XXIII canonized Martin de Porres in 1962, and he is considered the patron saint of social action. ●

## 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 contact the diocesan child protection coordinator, Callista Julien, at **(340) 774-3166 and (340) 719-4020.**

## Our Blessed Mother's Message from Medjugorje

September 25, 2010

"Dear children! Today I am with you and bless you all with my motherly blessing of peace, and I urge you to live your life of faith even more, because you are still weak and are not humble. I urge you, little children, to speak less and to work more on your personal conversion so that your witness may be fruitful. And may your life be unceasing prayer. Thank you for having responded to my call."

— Courtesy of John and Claire Foster

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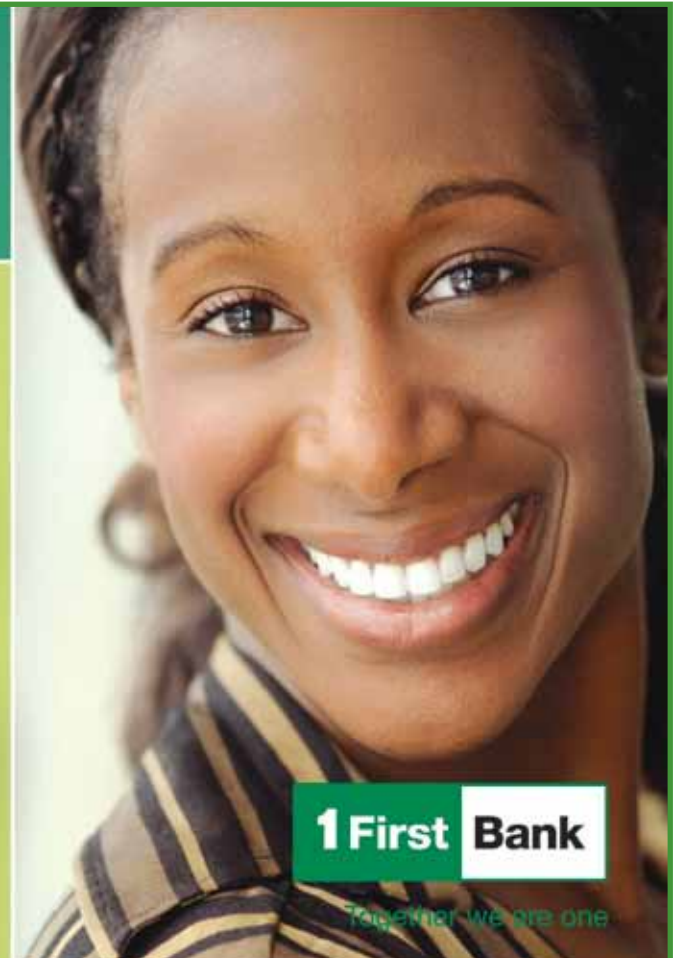
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