

THE CATHOLIC ISLANDER

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A PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF ST. THOMAS IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

THE BISHOP'S APPEAL 2006 WILL AID THE MISSION OF FOUR SCHOOLS AND CATHOLIC CHARITIES

By introducing the Bishop's Appeal 2006 on the first weekend of Lent, March 4 and 5, the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands will generate vital financial support for the needy served by Catholic Charities of the Virgin Islands (CCVI) and the hundreds of children who attend the four Catholic schools in the United States Virgin Islands.

The goal for the Bishop's Appeal 2006 is \$425,000, according to Charles Shain, Diocesan Director for Development and Marketing. With these funds, CCVI director Michael Akin plans to increase the number of vans carrying food to the poor and begin to respond to requests for immigration and naturalization services. These funds also will help educate children in four Catholic schools: on St. Thomas, Ss. Peter and Paul School will complete its new library; on St. Croix, St. Joseph High School will refurbish its science laboratory, St. Mary School will install closed circuit programming in the classrooms, and St. Patrick School will purchase a new reading series for students in grades K-5.

Last year, the Bishop's Appeal set a record, raising more than \$370,000. With these funds, CCVI purchased a van to carry food to those who are most in need on St.



Most Rev. George Murry, SJ, Bishop of the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, posed with students and faculty of Ss. Peter and Paul School on St. Thomas after celebrating Mass for the opening of Catholic Schools Week on January 29.

Croix and St. Thomas, expanded the soup kitchen on St. John and provided more counseling and job placement services at the CCVI office in Christiansted. In addition, each of our Catholic schools used money from the appeal to offer tuition assistance to families who could not afford a Catholic education and to make physical improvements in the schools, most noticeably the external renovation of Ss. Peter and Paul School.

Invoking this year's theme, *For We Are God's Co-Workers*, Bishop George Murry, SJ, said, "The Bishop's Appeal is a significant way

for us to share our financial resources with the needy and strengthen our schools. I hope and pray that in the Spirit of Jesus, every Catholic in the diocese will contribute to the appeal and receive God's blessing a hundred-fold in return."

Brochures and envelopes for the Bishop's Appeal 2006 are available in all the Catholic schools and churches in the Virgin Islands. If you would like more information about the appeal or about estates or bequests, please contact Mr. Shain at the Chancery: 774-3166, ext. 209.



Notes from the Bishop's Desk

*The Most Reverend George V. Murry, SJ
Bishop of the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands*

BISHOP MURRY'S PUBLIC SCHEDULE

Tuesday, February 28, 10:00 a.m., St. Thomas/St. John Deanery meeting, Ss. Peter and Paul School, St. Thomas.

Wednesday, March 1, noon, Ash Wednesday Mass, Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral, St. Thomas.

Thursday, March 2, 10:00 a.m., St. Croix Deanery meeting, Blessed Peter Donders Residence, St. Croix.

Saturday, March 4, 6:00 p.m., Mass, Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral, St. Thomas.

Sunday, March 5, 6:30 and 8:30 a.m., Masses, Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral, St. Thomas.

Saturday, March 11, 6:00 p.m., Bishop's Appeal kick-off reception, St. Croix.

Sunday, March 12, 7:30 and 10:00 a.m., Masses, St. Joseph Church, St. Croix.

Tuesday, March 14, 10:00 a.m., Board meeting, Catholic Charities of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas.

Thursday, March 16, 10:00 a.m., Catholic Relief Services board meeting, Baltimore, Maryland.

Saturday, March 18, 6:00 p.m., Mass, Holy Cross Church, St. Croix.

Sunday, March 19, 10:00 a.m., Patronal Mass, St. Patrick Church, St. Croix.

Tuesday, March 21, 10:00 a.m., Catholic Schools Principals meeting, St. Joseph School, St. Croix.

Saturday, March 25, 6:00 p.m., Mass, Holy Family Church, St. Thomas.

Sunday, March 26, 6:30 and 9:00 a.m., Masses, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, St. Thomas.

BISHOP'S APPEAL VIDEO DEBUTS

The Catholic Television Network (CTN-channel 16) on St. Thomas and the Caribbean Communications Network (CCN-channel 7) on St. Croix are broadcasting a new five-minute promotional video on the Bishop's Appeal 2006 throughout Lent.

Made by Moxie Marketing on St. Thomas and directed by Bob Austin, the video intersperses interviews with Bishop George Murry, SJ, and others with scenes from the four Catholic schools and the soup kitchens and shelters operated by Catholic Charities of the Virgin Islands.

NEW CARDINAL

Bishop George Murry, SJ, congratulated Archbishop Sean O'Malley, OFM Cap., of Boston after Pope Benedict XVI named him among fifteen new cardinals on February 22. The new cardinals will be elevated at the Vatican on March 24.

Cardinal-elect O'Malley was bishop of the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands from 1985 to 1992.

PATRONAL FEAST

Bishop George Murry, SJ, will celebrate the Patronal Mass of St. Patrick Church and St. Patrick School at the parish on Sunday, March 19, at 7:00 a.m. The Patronal Feast will continue after Mass with the annual parade and brunch.

BISHOP'S APPEAL ON ST. JOHN

Nearly fifty supporters attended a reception to launch the Bishop's Appeal 2006 at the Equator Restaurant at Caneel Bay Resort on St. John on February 20. Although some of the guests were from St. Thomas, the majority were parishioners of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on St. John.

Bishop George Murry, SJ, reminded the guests that Ss. Peter and Paul School and Catholic Charities of the Virgin Islands serve St. John with an eye towards improved and expanded services in the future.



Carolyn Rourke, Lay Liaison on St. John for the Bishop's Appeal 2006, introduced Bishop George Murry, SJ, at the kick-off reception at Caneel Bay Resort on February 20.

EVANGELIZATION THROUGH COMMUNITY

The West Indian Franciscans of St. Croix and the Zion Community of Trinidad and Tobago have entered into a partnership to provide spiritual programs, workshops, retreats, training and educational outreach to parishes, schools and organizations. The team will launch its work March 3-5 at the Light of Christ Retreat Center on St. Croix, offering a series of evangelization workshops. In addition, members of the Zion Community will introduce aspects of their life as an ecclesial community.

The weekend program begins with adult worship and scripture sharing on Friday at 7:00 p.m. A workshop on "Techniques in Evangelization" begins the Saturday program at 9:00 a.m., followed by "United Intercession in Parishes for Effective Evangelization" at 11:00 a.m. and a display of the work of the Zion Community at 1:00 p.m. Sunday's program begins with Mass at St. Patrick Church at 7:00 a.m., followed by a workshop on "Effective Evangelization" at 10:00 a.m., a healing session at 11:00 a.m. and the display of the work of the Zion Community at 2:00 p.m. Additional workshops will be added.

Admission to all events is free.

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church on St. Thomas will celebrate the eightieth anniversary of the building of the church with a triduum on April 5-7 at 6:30 p.m. Fr. Rodney Olive, CSsR, will preach on "Working for the Lord."

FUNERAL FOR MYSTERY BABY

Eunice Charles, the eighteen-month-old child whose body was found amidst mystery on St. Thomas in late January, was buried after a funeral Mass at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on February 10. Msgr. Jerome Feudjio, Pastor of Holy Family Church on St. Thomas, celebrated the Mass.

After police and the media asked anyone with information to come forward, it was learned that the child's mother was a Haitian immigrant whose baby was taken from her by the smugglers who helped them sail out of their homeland on January 22.

CHILD PROTECTION

Religious Education teachers and other parish staff and volunteers who have regular contact with children in the course of their ministries are required to attend *Protecting God's Children*, a video and discussion seminar on protecting children from abuse. Others are welcome to participate. The three-hour program will be presented at the following dates, times and locations.

On St. Thomas, the seminars will be presented on Thursday, May 11, and on Tuesday, August 22, at 6:00 p.m.

On St. Croix, the seminars are offered at the Marian Hall of St. Ann Church on Thursdays, March 30, May 18 and August 24, at 6:00 p.m. and at the Hospitality Lounge and Learning Center at St. Joseph Church on Saturday, August 26, at 9:00 a.m.

TOP SPELLER

Jake Heileman, an eighth grader at Ss. Peter and Paul School on St. Thomas, won first place in the 2006 St. Thomas-St. John District Intermediate Spelling Bee at Bertha C. Boschulte Middle School on February 17.

Beating contestants from twenty-four other public, private and parochial schools, the thirteen-year-old won a trophy, a \$10 gift certificate to Dockside Bookstore, an electronic dictionary and a new computer donated by the Education Department and Emily Carter, the district's insular superintendent.

He now enters the territorial Virgin Islands Spelling Bee on March 24, which pits the six top spellers from St. Croix against the top six from St. Thomas-St. John. The winner will advance to the national spelling bee in Washington, D.C.

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LENTEN REGULATIONS

Abstinence from meats is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years old and older on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays of Lent.

In addition, fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59. Those who are bound by this may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.

The special Paschal fast and abstinence are encouraged for Holy Saturday.

By the threefold discipline of fasting, almsgiving and prayer, the Church keeps Lent from Ash Wednesday until the evening of Holy Thursday. All of the faithful and the catechumens should undertake serious practice of these three traditions. Failure to observe any penitential days at all or a substantial number of such days must be considered serious.

ASH WEDNESDAY

On Ash Wednesday, March 1, Catholics and other Christians will wear the sign of the cross in ashes on their foreheads, bearing witness to their belief in the sorrow for sins and preparing for a season of repentance which ends with the bright celebration of Easter.

The ashes used in this ceremony are made by burning the remains of the palms blessed on the Palm Sunday of the previous year. Four ancient prayers are prayed in the blessing of the ashes. The ashes are sprinkled with holy water and fumigated with incense. The priest or deacon, dipping his thumb into the ashes, marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of each person, saying "Remember, you are dust and unto dust you shall return" or "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel."

On St. Thomas, ashes will be imposed at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral at 7:00 and 8:30 a.m., and 12:15, 5:30 and 7:00 p.m., at Holy Family Church at 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church at 6:30 p.m., and at St. Anne Chapel at 7:30 p.m.

On St. Croix, ashes will be imposed at the Herbert Grigg Home for the Aged at 10:30 a.m., at Holy Cross Church at 8:15 a.m., noon and 6:00 p.m., at St. Ann Church at 6:30 a.m., 12:15, 3:00 (children's service) and 7:00 p.m., at St. Joseph Church at 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., and at St. Patrick Church at 6:30 and 8:00 a.m. and noon.

On St. John, ashes will be imposed at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church at the 8:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Masses.

THE CATHOLIC ISLANDER
is online at www.catholicislander.com

LENTEN MISSIONS

Lenten Missions are an opportunity to delve more deeply into the meaning of the mystery of the Paschal faith.

On St. Thomas, Fr. John Mark will lead a Holy Hour and teach a catechesis in Spanish based on the Seven Last Words of Jesus at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on Sundays of Lent after the 12:30 p.m. Mass. Rev. Dr. George Franklin will lead the Cathedral's English Mission, entitled "Releasing Your Abundance," on March 13-15 at 6:30 p.m.

On St. John, the parish pastoral team will lead a Disciples in Mission faith-sharing and evangelization series in English and in Spanish at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on Tuesdays of Lent at 7:30 p.m.

On St. Croix, Marina Salas and Juanito Velez of the Cursillo Movement in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, will lead the Spanish Mission at St. Joseph Church on March 6-10 at 7:00 p.m. Fr. Gabriel Julian of Trinidad will lead the English Mission at St. Joseph Church on March 27-31 at 7:00 p.m. Fr. Paul Borowski, CSsR, and Fr. Kevin Murray, CSsR, will lead a mission at St. Patrick Church on March 27-31 at 7:00 p.m.

SACRIFICE SUPPERS

In what is becoming increasingly popular in the Virgin Islands, several parishes are offering Sacrifice Suppers before Stations of the Cross. Congregants are encouraged to forego their usual supper on Fridays of Lent and instead come to the church to share free homemade soup, bread and fellowship. On St. Croix, St. Joseph Church will offer the Sacrifice Suppers at 5:30 p.m. On St. John, the Sacrifice Suppers will be at 6:00 p.m.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Praying the Stations of the Cross (also known as the Way of the Cross and the Via Crucis) helps the faithful feel the Good Friday experience of Jesus walking through the streets of Jerusalem to his passion and death. The Stations of the Cross will be prayed on the Fridays of Lent at the following parishes.

The Stations of the Cross will be prayed on St. Thomas at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral in English at 5:30 p.m. and in Spanish at 6:15 p.m., St. Anne Chapel at 7:00 p.m., Holy Family Church at 5:30 p.m. and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church at 6:00 p.m.

Pray the Stations on St. Croix at Holy Cross Church at 7:00 p.m., Sacred Heart Chapel (in Spanish) at 7:00 p.m., St. Ann Church at 5:30 p.m., St. Joseph Church at 6:30 p.m. and St. Patrick Church at 7:00 p.m.

On St. John, the Stations will be prayed at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church at 7:00 p.m.

¡BUENAS NOTICIAS!

REGLAS DE CUARESMA

Todos los viernes de cuaresma se consideran días de abstinencia. Abstinencia significa que no podemos comer carne en esos días si tenemos 14 años en adelante.

Miércoles de Ceniza y Viernes Santo son días de abstinencia y ayuno. Ayuno significa que nos limitamos a una comida completa al día si estamos entre las edades de 18 y 59 años.

La Iglesia nos pide que también hagamos otros actos de abnegación durante la cuaresma.

DISCÍPULOS EN MISIÓN

Discípulos en Misión es un grupo donde se comparte las experiencias de fe que permiten reflexionar sobre las lecturas del domingo e integrar sus enseñanzas de acuerdo a nuestra realidad. Estas sesiones en inglés y español serán en el Salón Parroquial Guadalupe de la Iglesia Nuestra Señora del Carmen en St. John los martes después de la Misa bilingüe de 7.00 p.m.

CENAS DE SACRIFICIO/VÍA CRUCIS

Consideren dejar una cena regular y compartir una sopa simple hecha en casa y pan los viernes de cuaresma.

En Santa Cruz, se hará en la Iglesia San José a las 5.30 p.m., seguido por la Vía Crucis a las 6.30 p.m.

En St. John, se hará en la Iglesia Nuestra Señora del Carmen a las 6.00 p.m., seguido por la Vía Crucis a las 7.00 p.m. Solo los primeros viernes del mes, para observar el ayuno eucarístico una hora antes de Misa, la sopa se servirá hasta las 6.30 p.m. La Hora Santa que incluye la Vía Crucis comienza a las 6.30 p.m., seguido de la Misa a las 7.30 p.m.

En St. Tomás, la Vía Crucis se orará en español en la Catedral San Pedro y San Pablo los viernes de cuaresma a las 6:15 p.m.

CONFESIONES

Católicos son invitados a participar del Sacramento de la Reconciliación en cuaresma.

MISIÓN DE CUARESMA

El P. John Mark dará un catequesis sobre las Siete Últimas Palabras de Jesús los domingos de cuaresma en la Catedral San Pedro y San Pablo en St. Tomás después de la Misa de las 12.30 p.m.

Marina Salas y Juanito Vélez, cursillistas de Arecibo, Puerto Rico, darán una misión en la Iglesia San José en Santa Cruz el 6 al 10 de marzo a las 7.00 p.m.

En la Iglesia Nuestra Señora del Carmen en St. John durante la cuaresma se viene realizando oraciones en las casas durante las noches por varios días de la semana a cargo del seminarista Ernesto Rodríguez. Los viernes se darán charlas, se orará por la comunidad y las familias y se desarrollarán actividades de caridad. Las reuniones tendrán como inicio la Vía Crucis a las 6.00 p.m. Además, durante el mes de marzo y abril habrán dos jornadas espirituales en la playa de Cinnamon Bay los domingos 19 de marzo y 9 de abril de 9.00 a.m. a 3.00 p.m. donde el tema central será la vocación como llamado a vivir en caridad como comunidad. Se seguirá con la Misa dominical a las 5.00 p.m. en la iglesia.

LA SÚPLICA DEL OBISPO

La Suplica del Obispo 2006 comienza el miércoles de cenizas, 1 de marzo. La meta es lograr \$425,000 para ayudar a las cuatro escuelas católicas y Caridad Católica de las Islas Vírgenes. Folletos y sobres se encuentran en las parroquias.

MISAS DE SANACIÓN

Un sacerdote impone las manos por la sanación en la Iglesia Nuestra Señora del Carmen en St. John cada viernes en la Misa de las 8.30 a.m., menos el primer viernes de cada mes, cuando se hace en las Misas de 7.00 a.m. y 7.00 p.m.

DESAYUNO CON EL PÁRROCO

Se comparte un Desayuno con el Párroco en la Iglesia Nuestra Señora del Carmen en St. John el 3 de marzo y el primer viernes de cada mes después de la Misa de las 7.00 a.m.

HORA SANTA

Hay Hora Santa bilingüe con Exposición y Bendición del Santísimo Sacramento en la Iglesia Nuestra Señora del Carmen en St. John el 3 de marzo y el primer viernes de cada mes, comenzando con Misa bilingüe a las 7.00 p.m.

MISA HISPANA EN TELEVISIÓN

Misas en español desde la Iglesia Nuestra Señora del Carmen en St. John se ven en St. Tomás y St. John en el canal 16 los sábados a las 2.00 p.m.

LA MISIÓN DE LA IGLESIA



El seminarista Ernesto Rodríguez se reunió con miembros de la comunidad hispana en la Iglesia Nuestra Señora del Carmen en St. John para planear las actividades de caridad durante la cuaresma.

SISTER JOINS LOCAL FRANCISCAN COMMUNITY



After three years of discernment and permission from the Holy See, Sr. Germaine Convery (shown kneeling) transferred her vows from the Millvale Franciscans to the West Indian Franciscans based on St. Croix at Sunday Mass at St. Ann Church on February 12. Sr. Patricia Alexander, WIF Superior, and Msgr. Michael Kosak, Pastor and Vicar General, received the vows.

BLESSING OF THROATS ON ST. BLASE DAY



Very Rev. Neil Scantlebury and visiting priest Fr. Martin Field blessed throats at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas on the memorial of St. Blase, February 3.

AUCTION AIDS SCHOOL



Items were auctioned, dinner was served, and St. Mary School on St. Croix had cash in the bank from its annual fundraising auction and dinner at the Divi Carina Bay Ballroom on February 4.

In keeping with a "Circus Circus" theme, Liz Hering, School Administrator, and Fr. John McLouglin, CSsR, Pastor of St. Patrick Church, and others dressed as clowns. Meanwhile, auctioneer Bruce Wilson sold furniture, jewelry, art, small appliances, home decorations and more.

One of the high-bidding items was dinner prepared and hosted by Bishop George Murry, SJ, which went for \$2,000.

Pictured above, the Ramcharitars family were among the clowns at the Gala Auction to benefit their school on February 4.

Someone praying just a few pews from you at Sunday Mass may have a vocation to the priesthood, diaconate or religious life.

How will you nurture that vocation?

Call Fr. John Mark, Diocesan Vocations Director, at (340) 774-0201.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS HOLD HEALTH FAIR



Members of the public had free health screenings thanks to the Catholic Daughters of America Court 2049, who hosted a Health Fair at Ss. Peter and Paul School on St. Thomas on February 11. Participants checked their blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol and vision, and received free counseling on breast self-examinations, nutrition and weight management.



On the Road to Jerusalem

*The Most Reverend George V. Murry, SJ
Bishop of the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands*

SPIRITUAL SUPPORT FOR THE TROOPS IN SINAI

Many of you know Fr. Jose Herrera. Fr. Herrera served as parochial vicar at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas and then as pastor of St. Joseph Church on St. Croix. In 1994, Fr. Herrera requested and was granted permission by Bishop Elliott Thomas to join the army as a full-time chaplain. Since my arrival in the diocese in 1998, I have visited Fr. Herrera at three of his assignments, Kansas City, Missouri, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and most recently at the Multi-National Force Camp in the Sinai Peninsula, Egypt.

Fr. Herrera was assigned to Sinai a year ago. There, soldiers from the United States and ten other nations strive to insure peace among Israelis, Egyptians and now Palestinians, all of whose borders meet in the Sinai Peninsula. Last fall, Gen. Roberto Martinelli, the commander of the Sinai force, invited me to visit Fr. Herrera and to join him in ministering to the men and women who comprise the Multi-National Force.

I arrived in Cairo, Egypt, just before midnight on February 7. Fr. Herrera met me at the airport. We stayed overnight in a hotel, and then, the next day, drove five hours through a sand storm to North Camp in the north eastern corner of the Sinai. Soon after our arrival, we began a series of Masses for various groups, including soldiers from the island of Fiji in the south Pacific who were stationed at an outpost on the Mediterranean Sea, Columbian soldiers at an observation post in central Sinai, and Italians and American troops assigned to the camps in north and south Sinai.

(Story continues on page 8)



Bishop Murry met with a group of soldier from Fiji at their camp by the Mediterranean Sea.



In central Sinai, Bishop Murry, Fr. Herrera and a Columbian priest celebrated Mass for soldiers from Columbia.



Bishop Murry and Fr. Herrera wore anti-landmine gear upon leaving North Camp.



At the end of a Mass for American and Italian troops, Fr. Herrera presented Bishop Murry with an icon of Moses from St. Catherine's Monastery at the foot of Mt. Sinai.

BISHOP IN SINAI

(continued from page 7)

Before going outside of the camps, we were issued anti-landmine protective helmets and vests because a few weeks before I arrived an improvised explosive device (IED), the kind used in nearby Iraq to injure American soldiers, exploded on the road outside of North Camp. Fortunately, no one was injured, but since then, everyone leaving the camp must wear protective gear and travel with an armed escort. Although neither became necessary during my visit, they give me a tangible sense of the dangers our men and women in uniform in the Middle East face everyday.

The officers and enlisted men and women with whom I spoke were very appreciative of Fr. Herrera. So am I. Our small diocese has provided two full-time chaplains for the military, Fr. Herrera and Fr. Simon Obeng. Fr. Obeng was stationed in Iraq last year and is now at an army base in Colorado. In addition to them, Fr. Cecil Corneille and Fr. Alejandro Sanchez (who was also in Iraq last year) both serve in the National Guard. All of us can be proud of these men for the selfless service they are giving to the Church and their country, and it is important that we pray for them, asking the Lord to keep them and all those whom they serve in the military safe and secure.

On the last day of my visit, the Protestant chaplain, Maj. Victor Robinson, and I were looking out over the Red Sea soon after sunrise and I was telling him what an honor it had been for me to be with the men and women of the Multi-National Force. The sea shimmered with the light of a new day. Maj. Robinson pointed to the northeast and said: "A few hours from here is Jerusalem, the Holy City of Peace." He was right; to find that peace we must always be **On the Road to Jerusalem.**

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



Visting priest Fr. James Holland blessed those with birthdays and anniversaries at the end of Sunday Mass at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas on February 12. Shown among those who came forth were Deacon William Kenny, who served at the Mass, and his wife of forty-seven years, Barbara.

PRE-VALENTINE'S DAY BREAKFAST



The Les Enfants de St. Anne youth group hosted a pre-Valentine's Day breakfast social after Sunday Mass in the club house of St. Anne Chapel on St. Thomas on February 12. Pictured above, Bishop Elliott Thomas was among the attendees.

BAKE SALE RAISES FUNDS



Parish volunteers held a Bake Sale after all the Sunday Masses to raise funds for Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas on February 12.

FUNERAL FOR FORMER SENATOR WILLIAMS

Over 200 dignitaries, friends and family gathered as former Sen. Patrick Williams was laid to rest on February 21 with a funeral Mass at St. Joseph Church and burial at Kingshill Cemetery on St. Croix.

Sen. Williams served in the fifth legislature in 1963-64, where he was vice-president, and served as Commissioner of the V.I. Dept. of Agriculture and chair of the Board of Education. Williams also served on the University of the Virgin Islands Board of Trustees and as director and board member of the Public Services Commission, among many other civil service positions.

Shortly after Sen. Williams' death on February 11 at Juan F. Luis Hospital on St. Croix, Gov. Charles Turnbull issued a press release saying that "The Virgin Islands has lost a civil servant who tirelessly sought to improve the quality of life in the territory."

Sen. Williams was a parishioner at St. Joseph Church.



Fr. Cecil Corneille, Pastor of St. Joseph Church on St. Croix, celebrated the funeral Mass for former senator Patrick Williams on February 21.

BLESSING OF GUADALUPE HALL



Parishioners from churches on St. Thomas and St. John attended a day of Marian reflection sponsored by the Legion of Mary's Presidium Mary, Queen of Angels at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, February 11. Concluding the day, Fr. Charles Crespo, Pastor, blessed the parish hall and named it the Our Lady of Guadalupe Hall.

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY

World Marriage Day was celebrated at all parishes in the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands on the weekend of February 11-12. Special recognition was given to couples who celebrate 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and 50+ years of marriage in the year 2006.



Deacon Denis Griffith and Msgr. Michael Kosak presented certificates to couples at St. Ann Church on St. Croix.

Catholic Education

AGRICULTURAL FAIR



St. Patrick School on St. Croix showcased a display of homegrown produce at the 35th Annual Agricultural and Food Fair on February 18-20. Grades 3 and 4 displayed the vegetables and tea plants they planted from seed.

Pictured above, Elizabeth Jacobs' third grade class posed by its lettuce garden.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



The students of St. Patrick School on St. Croix celebrated Black History Month on February 10 and 15 by reciting poetry and speeches, dancing and singing songs of their favorite musicians and singers. Parents were invited to share in the festivities.

Pictured above, fourth grade students recited their poem at the Black History Month presentation.

YOUTH EVANGELIZATION

The students of Grades 5 to 7 at St. Patrick School on St. Croix will participate in an evangelization workshop led by the Zion Community at the Light of Christ Retreat Center on Friday, March 3. They will learn to spread the gospel values and to teach about loving one another, and have discussions on the teachings of Jesus Christ and maintaining a Christian life. The students will have the opportunity to ask questions.

SCHOLARSHIP DRIVE

Two eighth grade students, one each from St. Mary School and St. Patrick School, will receive a full scholarship to St. Joseph High School thanks to the Knights of Columbus Holy Cross Council 6482 on St. Croix.

The Knights will accomplish this through a Scholarship and Service Programs Raffle. The Knights will draw the winners at a Family Dinner at St. Gerard Hall on April 21. First prize in the raffle is a 2006 Honda Accord, second is a 60" color television and third is \$200 certificate for gasoline. Raffle tickets are \$20. each; a book of eleven chances is \$200. Tickets can be obtained from any of the Knights of Columbus.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP DAY



On Senior Class Leadership Day of Catholic Schools Week, seniors assumed all of the roles of the school for the day, including principal and teachers of all of the classes.

Pictured above, Nychak Joseph, a senior, shared ideas with student Zuri Baker, sophomore, while teaching the Biology class of Br. James Petrait, OSFS, on February 1.

Catholic Education

AIRMAN VISITS ALMA MATER



St. Joseph High School Class of 2005 graduate Eliana Schuster returned to her alma mater on St. Croix during Catholic Schools Week and spoke to the students in the U.S. Government class. The former Miss St. Joseph serves in the U.S. Air Force.

Pictured above, Javier Perez, a senior, helped Airman Schuster carry her Air Force jacket.

STUDENTS TOUR A VISITING OCEAN SURVEY VESSEL



Freshmen and juniors of St. Joseph High School on St. Croix toured the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Ocean Survey Vessel (OSV) Bold at the Frederiksted Pier on February 8. The OSV Bold was in the territorial waters until February 26.

Pictured above, the ninth grade Astronomy class waited for the next tour. Left to right, they are Chawnique Schjang, Brittany Williams, Chantel McNamara, Kwame Garcia, Jahmoya Edwards, Kaira Joseph, Chontelle John Baptiste, Akiel Guzman and Maneeka Samuel. Class member, Stephanie Bagnall, went with another group at the time and is not pictured here.

WALKATHON IMPROVES ENVIRONMENT

During Catholic Schools Week, the St. Joseph High School Home/School Association sponsored a Walk-a-thon on St. Croix on February 3 to raise funds for the school. Students walked from the Frederiksted Fish Market to Ham's Bluff and back to Frederiksted Beach. Some students volunteered to pick up trash along the way to help keep St. Croix beautiful.

Pictured left to right, Marla Matthew, Principal, Thomas Cybela, Sociology teacher and trash pickup organizer, and Edward Modeste, a senior, unloaded trash in the truck under the watch of two other seniors, Patrice Petersen and Camille Paul.



FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY



At the end of Sunday Mass on February 12, Franklin and Corinne Delsol invited parishioners to attend a meeting of the new Family Life Commission at St. Ann Church on St. Croix.

The Pride of Our Parishes



Parishioners Corinne Warner and Peter Laurencin lead the praise and worship at prayer meetings at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on St. John on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

DEACONS AND CANDIDATES MEET FOR FELLOWSHIP

Deacons and aspiring deacons on St. Thomas, along with their wives, are meeting monthly once again for prayer, business and fellowship. At the February 19 meeting, their spiritual director, Fr. John Mark, announced he would be their retreat master on June 25-30.



FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS ATTEND SUNDAY MASS



Members of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) of St Joseph High School on St. Croix attended Sunday Mass at St. Ann Church with their principal, Marla Matthew, on February 12.

ST. THOMAS CALENDAR

LENTEN MISSIONS

Fr. John Mark will lead a Holy Hour and teach a catechesis in Spanish based on the Seven Last Words of Jesus at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on Sundays of Lent after the 12:30 p.m. Mass. Rev. Dr. George Franklin will lead the Cathedral's English Mission, entitled "Releasing Your Abundance," on March 13-15 at 6:30 p.m.

HOLY HOURS/EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

St. Anne Chapel has a Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction on March 3 and all First Fridays at 6:00 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 has a Holy Hour with Exposition and Benediction on Fridays at 6:30 p.m.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church has a Holy Hour with Exposition and Benediction on Fridays at 6:30 p.m., followed by Mass at 7:30 p.m.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA DEVOTION

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

MAGNIFICAT

Magnificat, a ministry to Catholic women, meets March 4 and the first Saturday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral's Hospitality Lounge.

FRANCISCAN SPIRITUALITY

The Lady Clare of Assisi Fraternity shares Franciscan spirituality at Holy Family Church on March 11 and the second Saturday of each month at 1:00 p.m.

ST. JOSEPH WORKERS

The St. Joseph Workers meet at Holy Family Church on March 12 and the second Sunday of every month at 9:00 a.m.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The Holy Family Chapter share Vincentian spirituality at Holy Family Church on March 14 and the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF AMERICA

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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

LEGION OF MARY

Junior Presidium Mary, Queen of Archangels meets at the St. Anne Chapel Hall on Sundays at 1:30 p.m.

Presidium Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces meets at the St. Anne Chapel Hall on Sundays at 2:30 p.m.

Presidium Mary, Mystical Rose meets at Holy Family Church on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

EVENINGS OF CHARISMATIC PRAYER

Charismatic prayer meetings are held at Holy Family Church on Mondays at 7:30 p.m.

BLUE ARMY OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA

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

ST. JOHN CALENDAR

BREAKFAST WITH THE PASTOR

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church hosts a pot luck breakfast on March 3 and all First Fridays after the 7:00 a.m. Mass.

HOLY HOUR/EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church will have a bilingual First Friday Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction on March 3 at 6:30 p.m., followed by Mass at 7:30 p.m.

DISCIPLES IN MISSION

Disciples in Mission, a faith-sharing and evangelization series, meets in English and in Spanish at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

EVENINGS OF CHARISMATIC PRAYER

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

HEALING MASSES

A priest lays on hands for physical, spiritual, emotional and psychological healing at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on Fridays at the 8:30 a.m. Mass. On First Fridays, that Mass is at 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

LEGION OF MARY

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

*Our Blessed Mother's Message from Medjugorje
January 25, 2006*

"Dear children! Also today I call you to be carriers of the Gospel in your families. Do not forget, little children, to read Sacred Scripture. Put it in a visible place and witness with your life that you believe and live the Word of God. I am close to you with my love and intercede before my Son for each of you. Thank you for having responded to my call."

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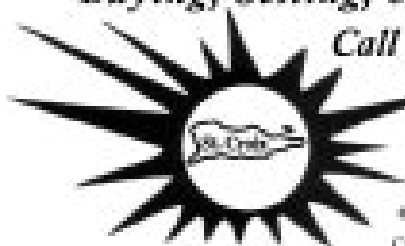
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ST. CROIX CALENDAR

HOLY HOURS/EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Holy Cross Church has Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction on March 3 and all First Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

St. Joseph Church has a bilingual Holy Hour with Exposition and Benediction on March 3 and all First Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

HEALING MASS

St. Patrick Church has a healing Mass on March 3 and all First Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

EVANGELIZATION SEMINARS

The Zion Community of Trinidad offers free evangelization training through seminars at Light of Christ Retreat Center on Friday, March 3, at 7:00 p.m., Saturday, March 4, at 9:00 a.m. and Sunday, March 5, at 10:00 a.m.

SANTO NIÑO DEVOTION/RECONCILIATION

St. Joseph Church hosts devotions to *El Santo Niño* on March 4 and the first Saturday of each month at 4:30 p.m. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered simultaneously.

LENTEN MISSIONS

Marina Salas and Juanito Velez of the Cursillo Movement in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, will lead the Spanish Mission at St. Joseph Church on March 6-10 at 7:00 p.m. Fr. Gabriel Julian of Trinidad will lead the English Mission at St. Joseph Church on March 27-31 at 7:00 p.m. Fr. Paul Borowski, CSsR, and Fr. Kevin Murray, CSsR, will lead a mission at St. Patrick Church on March 27-31 at 7:00 p.m.

FRANCISCAN SPIRITUALITY

The Our Lady of the Angels Fraternity shares Franciscan spirituality at the Franciscan House on March 12 and the second Sunday of each month at 3:00 p.m.

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Jim and Centelia Matthews lead a cancer support group at St. Ann Church on March 15 and the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

EVENINGS OF CHARISMATIC PRAYER

St. Patrick Church has an evening of charismatic prayer on March 17 and the third Friday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

St. Ann Church holds charismatic prayer meetings on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

MAGNIFICAT

Magnificat, a ministry to Catholic women, meets in the Franciscan House on Sunday, March 19, and the third Sunday of each month at 3:00 p.m.

PATRONAL FEAST

St. Patrick Church and St. Patrick School celebrate their Patronal Feast on Sunday, March 19. Bishop George Murry, SJ, will celebrate the Mass at the parish at 7:00 a.m. The annual parade through Frederiksted is then led by parish organizations and the school children. After the parade, the Men's Fellowship will sponsor a brunch in St. Gerard Hall. Tickets for the brunch are \$10.

CARMELITE SPIRITUALITY

Secular Order Discalced Carmelites share Carmelite spirituality in the Hospitality Lounge and Learning Center at St. Joseph Church on March 26 and the fourth Sunday of each month at 1:00 p.m.

CHILD PROTECTION SEMINAR

Protecting God's Children, a three-hour video and discussion program on child sexual abuse awareness and prevention, is offered at the Marian Hall of St. Ann Church on Thursday, March 30, at 6:00 p.m.

LEGION OF MARY

Praesidium Our Lady of Grace meets in the Holy Cross Church rectory on Sundays at 4:00 p.m.

CURSILLO ULTREYA

Cursillo members meet at St. Joseph Church on Mondays after the 7:00 p.m. Mass. Meetings are in Spanish.

NEO-CATECHUMENAL WAY

The Neo-Catechumenal Way presents a catechesis at St. Joseph Church on Mondays and at Holy Cross Church on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

ALPHA

A ten-week practical introduction to the Christian Faith continues at St. Gerard Hall of St. Patrick Church on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. until April 25. Supper is included.

DIOCESE OF ST. THOMAS IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

LENT 2006 PARISH SCHEDULES

ST. THOMAS

Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral

Ashes will be distributed at Mass on Wednesday, March 1, at 7:00 and 8:30 a.m. (School Mass), 12:15, 5:30 and 7:00 p.m. (Spanish).

Fr. John Mark will lead a Holy Hour and teach a catechesis in Spanish based on the Seven Last Words of Jesus on Sundays after the 12:30 p.m. Mass.

Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction will be on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.

Stations of the Cross will be prayed on Fridays at 5:30 p.m. in English and 6:15 p.m. in Spanish.

Rev. Dr. George Franklin will lead the English Mission, entitled "Releasing Your Abundance," on March 13-15 at 6:30 p.m.

St. Anne Chapel

Ashes will be distributed at Mass on Wednesday, March 1, at 7:30 p.m.

Stations of the Cross will be prayed on Fridays at 7:00 p.m. On First Fridays, the Stations will be prayed at 6:30 p.m., followed by Mass at 7:00 p.m. Mass.

Holy Family Church

Ashes will be distributed at Mass on Wednesday, March 1, at 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Stations of the Cross will be prayed on Fridays at 5:30 p.m., followed by Mass and Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

Ashes will be distributed at Mass on Wednesday, March 1, at 6:30 p.m.

Stations of the Cross will be prayed on Fridays at 6:00 p.m., followed by Eucharistic adoration and Mass at 7:00 p.m.

ST. JOHN

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church

Ashes will be distributed at Mass on Wednesday, March 1, at 8:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Morning Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours will be prayed on weekdays at 7:00 a.m.

The Disciples in Mission small-group faith-sharing sessions in English and Spanish will be on Tuesdays after the 7:00 p.m. Mass.

"Sacrifice Suppers" of soup and bread will be offered on Fridays at 6:00 p.m.

Stations of the Cross will be prayed on Fridays at 7:00 p.m. On First Fridays only, a Holy Hour that includes Stations of the Cross begins at 6:30 p.m., followed by First Friday Mass at 7:30 p.m.

ST. CROIX

Holy Cross Church

Ashes will be distributed at Mass on Wednesday, March 1, at 8:15 a.m., noon and 6:00 p.m.

Stations of the Cross will include benediction and confession on Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

First Friday devotions include Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on March 3 and April 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sacred Heart Chapel

Stations of the Cross will be prayed in Spanish on Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

St. Ann Church

Ashes will be distributed at Mass on Wednesday, March 1, at 6:30 a.m., and 12:15 and 7:00 p.m.; a children's service will be at 3:00 p.m.

Confessions will be heard on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. and Sundays at 8:45 a.m.

Lenten Reflections will be on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction will be on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

Stations of the Cross will be prayed on Fridays at 5:30 p.m. followed by Mass at 6:00 p.m.

St. Joseph Church

Ashes will be distributed at Mass on Wednesday, March 1, at 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

"Sacrifice Suppers" of soup and bread will be offered on Fridays at 5:30 p.m. in the Hospitality Lounge and Learning Center.

Stations of the Cross will be prayed in English and Spanish on Fridays at 6:30 p.m.

Marina Salas and Juanito Velez of the Cursillo Movement in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, will lead the Spanish Mission on March 6-10 at 7:00 p.m. Fr. Gabriel Julian of Trinidad will lead the English Mission on March 27-31 at 7:00 p.m.

St. Patrick Church

Ashes will be distributed at Mass on Wednesday, March 1, at 6:30 and 8:00 a.m., and at a paraliturgical service at noon.

A 6:30 a.m. Mass is added to the weekday schedule.

A healing service will be held on Friday, March 3, at 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross will be prayed on subsequent Fridays at 7:00 p.m., followed by exposition and benediction.

The parish's Patronal Feast will be celebrated on Sunday, March 19, at the 10:00 a.m. Mass, followed by a parade through Frederiksted and brunch in the St. Gerard Hall.

Fr. Paul Borowski, CSsR, and Fr. Kevin Murray, CSsR, will lead a Lenten Mission on March 27-31 at 7:00 p.m.