

THE CATHOLIC ISLANDER

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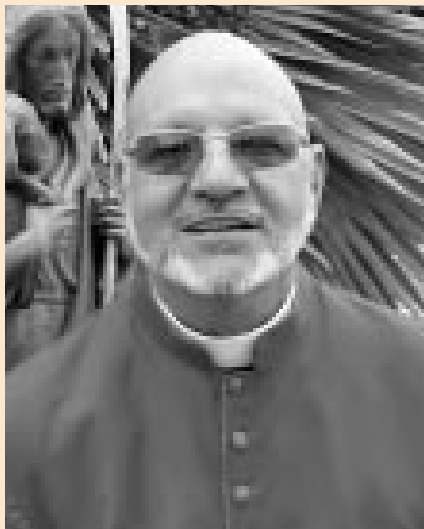
JULY 2005

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

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BISHOP MURRY APPOINTS NEW VICAR GENERAL, PRINCIPAL OF SS. PETER AND PAUL SCHOOL AND PASTOR OF ST. PATRICK CHURCH

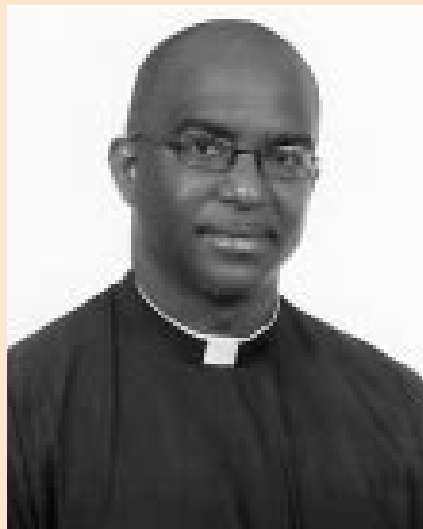


Msgr. Michael Kosak is the new Vicar General for the Diocese of St. Thomas.

Most Rev. George V. Murry, SJ, Bishop of the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, has appointed Msgr. Michael Kosak as Vicar General, effective August 15. According to Canon Law, a Vicar General is the chief adviser to the bishop and assists the bishop in the governance of the entire diocese.

Msgr. Kosak replaces Fr. Kenneth Gaddy, CSsR, as Vicar General and Director of the Diaconate. Fr. Gaddy is on sabbatical and will be reassigned by his Redemptorist superiors.

Msgr. Kosak will continue to serve as Pastor of St. Ann Church on St. Croix.

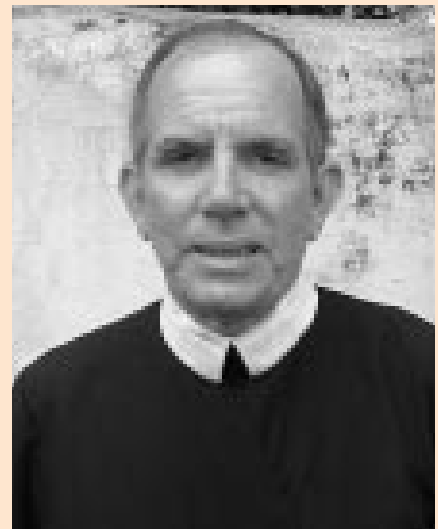


Rev. Dr. George Franklin is the new Principal at Ss. Peter and Paul School.

Bishop Murry has appointed Rev. Dr. George Franklin as Principal of Ss. Peter and Paul School on St. Thomas, effective August 15.

Fr. Franklin is teaching this summer at the Institute for Black Catholics at Xavier University in New Orleans, and will accompany the Prayers, Hymns and Praise Steel Orchestra on a European tour. Upon his return he will assume his new post at the school.

Bishop Murry will soon appoint a new pastor to Holy Family Church on St. Thomas, where Fr. Franklin had served as Pastor for almost two years.



Fr. John McLoughlin is the new Pastor of St. Patrick Church on St. Croix.

Bishop Murry has accepted the recommendation of the Redemptorist Fathers and has appointed Fr. John McLoughlin, CSsR, as Pastor of St. Patrick Church on St. Croix, effective July 28. Fr. McLoughlin replaces Fr. Kenneth Gaddy, CSsR.

Fr. McLoughlin has served as Parochial Vicar of St. Patrick Church since 2002.

In other news, Fr. Michael Houston, CSsR, will be leaving Holy Cross Church on St. Croix to become Pastor of St. Joseph Church in St. Joseph, Dominica, also effective July 28. Fr. Houston had served as Parochial Vicar of Holy Cross Church on St. Croix since 1999.



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 FOR JULY 2005

July 2, 6:00 p.m., & July 3, 8:30 a.m., Mass
Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral, St. Thomas

July 9, 5:00 p.m., Mass
St. Anne Chapel, St. Thomas

July 10, 9:30 a.m., Mass
St. Ann Church, St. Croix

July 13, 7:00 p.m., Mass and Lecture
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, St. John

July 16, 6:00 p.m., Patronal Mass
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, St. John

July 17, 10:30 a.m., Mass
Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral, St. Thomas

July 23, Ordination of African Jesuits
Benin City, Nigeria

July 25-August 8, Vacation

PRIEST CELEBRATES TEN YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD



Bishop George Murry, SJ, chatted with Fr. Cecil Corneille, SJ, Pastor of St. Joseph Church on St. Croix, at the reception following his Mass of Thanksgiving on the tenth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on May 20.

STUDENTS FROM SEVERAL PARISHES RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION TOGETHER



Bishop George Murry, SJ, spoke to those about to receive Confirmation and to their parents at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas on May 22. This was the first time Bishop Murry confirmed candidates from all the parishes on St. Thomas and St. John at the same celebration.

DIOCESE MOURNS THE LOSS OF DEACON

Deacon Alberto Olive died at home on St. Thomas on June 12 following a long illness. He was buried June 18.

Deacon Olive had served St. Anne Chapel on St. Thomas for seventy-seven years, beginning as an altar server.

He is survived by his wife Sylvia. May he rest in peace.

PATRONAL FEASTS

The patronal feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on St. John will be celebrated with a triduum and Patronal Mass. Bishop George Murry, SJ, will preside on Wednesday, July 13; former pastor Very Rev. Neil Scantlebury will lead the second evening on Thursday, July 14; and Fr. Charles Crespo, Pastor, will lead the third evening on Friday, July 15. Each evening of the triduum begins with Mass at 7:00 p.m., followed by a talk on Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Bishop Murry will celebrate the Patronal Mass on Saturday, July 16, at 6:00 p.m.

The patronal feast of St. Ann Church on St. Croix will be celebrated with a triduum on July 26-28 and a Patronal Mass on Sunday, July 31. Fr. Kizito Abizi of Takoradi, Ghana, will preach the triduum and celebrate the Mass.

NINE VIRGIN ISLANDERS WILL GO TO AFRICAN SYNOD

A team of nine clergy and parishioners from St. Ann Church on St. Croix have been invited to participate in the first Synod of the Archdiocese of Cape Coast in Ghana on July 11-23, 2006, at the invitation of Peter Cardinal Turkson.

Msgr. Michael Kosak, Pastor, will speak on "Priests and the Mission of the New Evangelization." Deacon Joseph Mark, traveling with his wife Kate, will speak about the broader dimensions of the evangelizing mission of the Church.

DIOCESE PREPARES FOR A EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

Plans for the first-ever diocesan Eucharistic Congress are being scaled down to serve the Virgin Islands rather than the Caribbean, the Presbyteral Council decided at its June 7 meeting at McAlpin Hall on St. Croix.

Originally, the desire was to attract as many as 1,200 participants to a four-day event at Frenchman's Reef Hotel on St. Thomas. The program now will be held on May 11-13, 2006, at Holy Family Church's Columban Hall.

Fr. Troy Schuster, Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church on St. Thomas, is compiling a list of speakers from the Virgin Islands, other Caribbean islands and the United States.

NEW GUIDELINES FOR GODPARENTS AND SPONSORS

Adults who live together but are not married in the Catholic Church will no longer be allowed to be godparents or sponsors, according to a new guideline in the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands.

In order to establish conformity between all parishes in the diocese regarding the requirements for the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and marriage, the priests of the diocese voted to amend the present diocesan guidelines. The new guidelines on baptism and confirmation state that "the pastor or his delegate must inform those persons suggested to be godparents/sponsors that cohabitation or living in non-Catholic marriage is not in accord with 'a life in harmony with the faith' (Canon 874), and such individuals thereby cannot be godparents/sponsors."

In other policy votes, the priests voted to standardize the minimum age of confirmation at 14 and to mandate that preparation for first communion and confirmation must be done at the parishes and not at the Catholic schools.

The new guidelines are effective immediately.

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HOMELESS COUNT HELPS CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Catholic Charities participated in the territory's point-in-time survey of unsheltered homeless people on May 21. Community-based organizations, public agencies and approximately fifty volunteers canvassed areas throughout the territory where the unsheltered homeless were known to congregate.

By the end of the day, 354 unsheltered homeless individuals were surveyed, including thirty-three children. Data collected from the survey will assist Catholic Charities and other agencies to develop strategies to alleviate chronic homelessness.

PARISHES TO AID CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Beginning with the 2005-2006 academic year, parishes will each contribute \$5,000 annually to the support of the diocesan Catholic schools.

Bishop George Murry, SJ, asked the priests of the diocese earlier this year to propose a suitable plan for parish support of the diocesan schools. At a Presbyteral Meeting at McAlpin Hall on St. Croix on June 7, the priests agreed that each year beginning with the 2005-2006 academic calendar, the four parishes on St. Croix will raise a total of \$20,000 for St. Joseph High School and the four parishes on St. Thomas and St. John will raise a total of \$20,000 for Ss. Peter and Paul School.

Individual parishes will raise those funds differently, while focusing the attention of the Catholic community on the needs of Catholic education. Some parishes will take up a special collection monthly and some pastors will approach benefactors.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS TO AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS

The Holy Cross Council of the Knights of Columbus is awarding financial assistance to a deserving graduating student of St. Patrick and St. Mary Schools. The monetary award will be applied towards tuition at St. Joseph High School in the coming year. The award for the St. Patrick School student is the Stanley A. Farrelly Scholarship and the award for the St. Mary School student is the Christian Begraff Scholarship.

The Council is planning a fundraising event for the scholarship so that the award may be increased for future recipients. Coinciding with Columbus Day, the Knights will hold an Auction Dinner at the Carambola Golf and Country Club on Saturday, October 8. The theme for the event is "Empowering Our Youth through Education."



Joan Blyden is the new Administrative Assistant at Catholic Charities of the Virgin Islands. Ms. Blyden is a native St. Thomian and attended Ss. Peter and Paul School. Ms. Blyden said her most memorable teachers were Fathers Cecil Corneille and Neil Scantlebury. Both always encouraged her to strive for excellence.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS: NEWS AND NOTICES

Ss. Peter and Paul High School senior Joyclen Bryan was honored on May 15 as the University of the Virgin Islands Upward Bound Youth Role Model.

Classrooms at St. Patrick School on St. Croix are being wired for internet service. In addition, the faculty is transitioning to electronic grading.

St. Mary School and St. Patrick School on St. Croix will introduce a revised curriculum when they reopen in the fall. The administration of both schools worked collaboratively for the past three years on this project.

Ss. Peter and Paul School students will have access to a virtual science lab by the fall, thanks to a grant of \$30,500.

St. Mary School on St. Croix will have a new fine arts building by the end of 2005. The building will house three classrooms, a conference room, administrative offices and a faculty lounge.

A committee at St. Joseph High School on St. Croix is making preparations for re-accreditation using a strategic planning protocol entitled Accreditation for Growth. The school's present accreditation is valid through June 2006.

Discounts for early registration for the 2005-2006 academic year are available now at all the above schools.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS HOST PRIESTS APPRECIATION LUNCHEON



The Catholic Daughters of America held its annual Priests Appreciation Luncheon at Victor's New Hideout on St. Thomas on June 5. Pictured above are Fr. Charles Crespo, Rev. Dr. George Franklin, Marlene Adams (Regent) and Very Rev. Neil Scantlebury.

LAY MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY TAKE FIRST VOWS



Four Lay Missionaries of Charity professed their first vows at Mass at the Missionaries of Charity convent on St. Croix on May 31. The Lay Missionaries are those who share in and support the spirituality and mission of the Missionaries of Charity.

Pictured left to right are: Agnes Eastman; Isidra Colon; Fr. Pat Lynch, Pastor of Holy Cross Church; Jessica Juggernaut; Rachel Graham.

CATHOLIC RADIO IN JULY

The Bishop's Office of Evangelization presents ninety minutes of Catholic radio on weekends.

In conjunction with the Sacred Heart Program in St. Louis, Missouri, *Contact* broadcasts on WIUJ 102.9 FM on Saturdays at 3:00 p.m. The July programs are listed below.

July 2 "Martyrs for the Truth"

July 9 "Crossing the Line"

July 16 "Weaving a Better Future"

July 23 "Cracking Up"

July 30 "Nature's Cathedral"

Tu Compañero Católico follows *Contact* on WIUJ 102.9 FM on Saturdays at 3:30 p.m. *Tu Compañero Católico*, an award-winning half-hour Spanish-language program, is produced by the Redemptorist Hispanic Radio Ministry. The July programs are listed below.

July 2 "Monsignor"

July 9 "Personal Relationships with Christ"

July 16 "The Meaning of Consecration"

July 23 "Cremation"

July 30 "The Mystics"

The Catholic Voice airs half-hour programs on WSTA 1340 AM on Sundays at 8:30 p.m. The programs are courtesy of EWTN TV & AM/FM Radio. All five July broadcasts are from a series of talks by Fr. Benedict Groeschel, CFR, entitled "Get a Life in Christ."

July 3 "Get a Life in Christ"

July 10 "Courage"

July 17 "Temperance"

July 24 "Justice"

July 31 "Charity and Love"

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www.catholicislander.com

NUEVAS GUIAS PARA PADRINOS

Para establecer conformidad entre todas las parroquias de la diócesis sobre los requisitos para los sacramentos de bautismo, confirmación y matrimonio, los sacerdotes de la diócesis votaron a añadir las siguientes reglas a las policías.

Guía Para El Bautismo (según cánones 872-874)

Los padrinos deben ser católicos practicantes, deben al menos tener 16 años de edad, estar confirmado y deben haber recibido los tres sacramentos de la iniciación cristiana (can. 874) y deben llevar una vida conforme a la fe y a su misión de padrinos en la educación cristiana para poder ser el ejemplo para el niño o niña o, cuando sea adulto ayudarle en su vida cristiana.

Católicos practicantes son aquellos que van a misa los domingos y fiestas de guardar, y que reciben los sacramentos de reconciliación y comunión al menos una vez al año. Si los padrinos son casados, deben de ser casados por la Iglesia Católica, no solamente por lo civil. Padrinos que cohabitan o viven en un matrimonio no católico no están en acuerdo con la vida en armonía de la fe, y por lo tanto no pueden ser padrinos.

La persona que pertenece a una comunidad eclesial no católica no puede ser padrino en un bautismo católico, pero puede ser reconocido como testigo cristiano, sólo cuando el otro padrino sea católico.

Guía Para La Confirmación (según cánones 892-893)

Los padrinos deben ser elegidos por parte del mismo confirmando. Para destacar el estrecho vínculo con el bautismo es deseable que el padrino de bautismo sea también el padrino de confirmación. Los requisitos para poder ser padrino de confirmación son los mismos del padrino de bautismo (can. 874).

Los padrinos deben ser católicos practicantes, deben al menos tener diez y seis años de edad, estar confirmado y deben haber recibido los tres sacramentos de la iniciación cristiana.

EL CONGRESO EUCHARÍSTICO

Planes para la realización del Primer Congreso Eucarístico Diocesano se han modificados a fin de servir más a la realidad de las Islas Vírgenes que del Caribe en general. El Consejo de Presbíteros decidió esto en la reunión del 7 de junio realizada en McAlpin Hall en Santa Cruz.

Originalmente, el deseo fue atraer a 1,200 participantes a los cuatro días del evento en el Hotel Frenchman's Reef en Sto. Tomás. El programa ahora será del 11 al 13 de mayo en Columban Hall en la Iglesia de la Sagrada Familia.

P. Troy Schuster, Párroco de la Iglesia de Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro en Sto. Tomás, está juntando en una lista algunos predicadores de las Islas Vírgenes, de otras islas del Caribe y de los Estados Unidos.

TWO DEACONS CELEBRATE 15 YEARS OF ORDINATION



Deacon Jose Vazquez of Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral and Deacon Austin Medina of Holy Family Church celebrated fifteen years of ordination on May 31. They were treated to an appreciation supper at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral's Hospitality Lounge on St. Thomas. Pictured left to right are Deacon Vazquez, Fr. John Mark, Deacon Medina and Marina Salem, hostess.

DOS DIÁCONOS CELEBRAN 15 AÑOS DE ORDENACIÓN

Los diáconos José Vásquez y Austin Medina celebraron quince años de ordenados el 31 de mayo. Ellos fueron agasajados con una comida realizada en el Salón de Hospitalidad de la Catedral San Pedro y San Pablo en Sto. Tomás. En la foto de izquierda a derecha están Diácono Vásquez, P. John Mark, Diácono Medina y Marina Salem, anfitriona.

EL PAPA: MATRIMONIO Y LA FAMILIA

El 4 de junio se hizo pública una carta del Santo Padre al cardenal Alfonso López Trujillo, presidente del Pontificio Consejo para la Familia, en la que renueva la convocatoria que hizo Juan Pablo II del V Encuentro Mundial de las Familias, que se celebrará en Valencia (España) en julio de 2006.

Tras recordar el tema del encuentro: "La transmisión de la fe en la familia", el Papa escribe en la carta fechada el 17 de mayo: "Me propongo alentar, como lo hizo Juan Pablo II, "la estupenda novedad", el "Evangelio de la Familia", cuyo valor es central para la Iglesia y la sociedad".

"Todos los pueblos -continúa-, para dar un rostro verdaderamente humano a la sociedad, no pueden ignorar el bien precioso de la familia, fundada sobre el matrimonio. "La alianza matrimonial, por la que el varón y la mujer constituyen entre sí un "consorcio" para toda la vida, ordenado por su misma índole natural al bien de los cónyuges y a la generación y educación de la prole", es el fundamento de la familia, patrimonio y bien común de la humanidad. Así pues, la Iglesia no puede dejar de anunciar que, de acuerdo con los planes de Dios, el matrimonio y la familia son insustituibles y no admiten otras alternativas".

Benedicto XVI subraya que "la familia cristiana tiene, hoy más que nunca, una misión nobilísima e ineludible, como es transmitir la fe. (...). Los padres son los primeros evangelizadores de los hijos, don precioso del Creador, comenzando por la enseñanza de las primeras oraciones. Así se va construyendo un universo moral enraizado en la voluntad de Dios, en el cual el hijo crece en los valores humanos y cristianos que dan pleno sentido a la vida". (VIS)

¡BUENAS NOTICIAS!



Ernesto Rodriguez, Pastoral Associate at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on St. John, prepared a Peruvian dish called "causa rellena" for the Dominican Mothers Day reception on May 29. For this celebration, the men of the parish were to cook for the women.

Ernesto Rodriguez, Asistente del Pastoral en la Iglesia Nuestra Señora del Carmen en St. John, preparó un plato peruano llamado "causa rellena" por el día de las Madres Dominicanas, el día 29 de mayo. Para ese día fueron los hombres quienes cocinaron para las mujeres.

FIESTA PATRONAL

La fiesta patronal de la Iglesia Nuestra Señora del Carmen en St. John se celebrará con un triduum y una Misa Patronal. El Obispo George Murry la presidirá el miércoles 13 de julio, el Párroco anterior de la Iglesia, el P. Neil Scantlebury, lo hará la segunda noche jueves 14 de julio y el P. Charles Crespo, actual Párroco, estará a cargo de la tercera sesión viernes 15 de julio. Cada noche del triduum empezará con una misa a las 7.00 p.m., seguido de un mensaje sobre Maria, la Madre de Jesús. Obispo Murry celebrará la Misa Patronal el sábado 16 de julio a las 6.00 p.m.

UNA NUEVA ESTATUA DE MARIA

Una nueva estatua de Maria, la Madre de Jesús, fue presentada al fin de la procesión mariana anual de la Iglesia Santa Cruz en Sta. Cruz el 22 de mayo. La procesión, la bendición solemne y el recibimiento de la nueva estatua tuvo lugar después de la misa de 11.00 a.m. La estatua está en una nueva gruta que se ha construida en el jardín de la Iglesia cerca al Centro del Buen Pastor.

EL DIÁCONO DELEGADO

El diácono José Vázquez de la Catedral de San Pedro y San Pablo en Sto. Tomás representará a nuestra diócesis en la reunión de la Asociación de Diáconos Hispanos de los Estados Unidos el 14-18 de julio en San Juan, Puerto Rico. El diácono Vázquez es miembro de la directiva.

RADIO CATÓLICA

La Oficina de Evangelización del Obispo presenta cada fin de semana *Tu Compañero Católico*, un premiado programa radial en español con una duración de media hora. A manera de revista, *Tu Compañero Católico* incluye segmentos de entrevistas con invitados especiales, catecismo, consejos espirituales, música y más.

Tu Compañero Católico se oye en la radio WIUJ 102.9 FM los sábados a las 3.30 p.m. Los programas del mes de julio son los siguientes.

2 de julio "Monseñor"

9 de julio "Relaciones Personales con Cristo"

16 de julio "El Sentido de Consagración"

23 de julio "Cremación"

30 de julio "Los Místicos"

FIRST COMMUNION



Very Rev. Neil Scantlebury, Rector of Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas, posed with the children who received First Communion on May 29.

Fr. Troy Schuster, Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church on St. Thomas, gave First Communion on May 29.



The First Communion children prepared to enter into St. Ann Church on St. Croix on May 29.

THE CLASS OF 2005

St. Mary School on St. Croix had its kindergarten graduation at Holy Cross Church on June 1.



Ss. Peter and Paul High School on St. Thomas had its fifty-fifth commencement exercises at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on June 2. Bishop George Murry, S.J., assured the members of the Class of 2005 that they will need “three attitudes to approach the future: faith in God; confidence in yourself; courage.”

The graduates are shown turning their tassels.

Twenty-one graduates comprised the Class of 2005 of St. Joseph High School on St. Croix on June 4. Diplomas were conferred by the Principal, Jocelyn Hodgson, assisted by Bishop George Murry, SJ.



Pictured left to right, back row: Elson Carty; Ashley Moise; Shane Noorhasan; Eliana Schuster; Osayand Gore; Houston Pettway; Giana Schjang; Kevin Troutman; Garvin Powell.

Middle row: Lynette Clarke; Joel Brumant; Jamaris Carrasco; Luis Ferrer, Jr.; Shawon Reyes, Salutorian; Karen Henry; Rosetta Romain, Valedictorian.

Front row: Giselle Narinesingh; Jana James; Ludequa Phillips; Sylvia Connor-Navarro; Lisa O'Neill.

CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSIONS

The feast day of Corpus Christi, also known as the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, was instituted by Pope Urban IV in 1264. The customary procession was approved by Popes Martin V and Eugene IV some two hundred years later. Our processions on May 29 followed a long tradition of acknowledging the real presence of Jesus Christ in the most holy Eucharist and our attempts to bring this belief into the world to transform it. Below are quotes from documents written by recent popes that offer insight into the tradition of Eucharistic processions on the feast of Corpus Christi.

“Wherever it is possible in the judgment of the diocesan bishop, a procession through the public streets should be held, especially on the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ as a public witness of reverence for the Most Holy Sacrament” (Canon 944 §1), for the “devout participation of the faithful in the Eucharistic procession on the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ is a grace from the Lord which yearly fills with joy those who take part in it” (John Paul II, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, 10).

“The Catholic Church has always offered and still offers to the sacrament of the Eucharist the cult of adoration, not only during Mass, but also outside of it, reserving the consecrated hosts with the utmost care, exposing them to the solemn veneration of the faithful, and carrying them in procession” (Paul VI, *Mysterium fidei*, 56).

“Because Christ himself is present in the sacrament of the altar, he is to be honored with the worship of adoration. To visit the Blessed Sacrament is...a proof of gratitude, an expression of love, and a duty of adoration toward Christ our Lord” (Paul VI, *Mysterium fidei*, 66).



Fr. Cecil Corneille, Pastor of St. Joseph Church on St. Croix, holds high the Eucharist in a procession on the church grounds.



Very Rev. Neil Scantlebury and Deacon William Kenny of Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas were followed by servers and Fr. John Mark holding the Eucharist down Main Street.



Servers and the First Communion children led the procession to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on St. John.

MARY STATUE ENTHRONED AT HOLY CROSS CHURCH

The annual May Procession at Holy Cross Church on St. Croix on May 22 included the presentation of a new outdoor statue of Mary, the Mother of Jesus. The procession, solemn blessing and enthrone-ment of the new statue took place after the 11:00 a.m. Mass.

The statue is in a newly-constructed grotto in the church's prayer garden, next to the Good Shepherd Center.



Six members of the Youth Group at Holy Cross Church on St. Croix led one decade of the rosary in front of the Blessed Sacrament during the parish's May Procession on May 22.



A team of volunteers provided refreshments after the May Procession at Holy Cross Church on St. Croix on May 22.

Left to right, they are Dr. Bon Domingo, Dr. Ritzalena Batenga, Sr. Emma Paloma, ICM, Gloria Vivot, and Brenda Paul.

MAY IS THE MONTH OF MARY

Benedict XVI concluded a general audience at the Vatican on May 18 with these words:

“Lastly, I address you, young people, sick people and newlyweds, encouraging you all to deepen the pious practice of the Holy Rosary, especially in this month of May dedicated to the Mother of God. The Rosary is evangelical prayer, helping us to understand better the fundamental mysteries of the story of salvation.”



Rev. Dr. George Franklin gave a talk on Mary, the Mother of Jesus at Holy Family Church on St. Thomas on May 16.



Fr. Troy Schuster, Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church on St. Thomas, led the congregation in the recitation of three Hail Marys after the crown was placed on the head of the image of the Blessed Mother at the May Procession on May 29.

CLASS REUNION



Charlotte Amalie High School's Class of 1970 celebrated its 35th Anniversary with Mass at Holy Family Church on St. Thomas on June 12. They are pictured with Rev. Dr. George Franklin.

Someone praying just a few pews from you at Mass may have a vocation to the PRIESTHOOD, DIACONATE or RELIGIOUS LIFE. How will you nurture that vocation?

Call Fr. John Mark at
(340) 774-0201.

THREE SENIORS SHARE FIRST PLACE IN SIXTH ANNUAL SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM

Three seniors from St. Joseph High School on St. Croix tied for first place in the school's sixth annual Science Symposium.

In this competition, participating students are invited to do a science project and then make a presentation of it on videotape. Judges then view the videotaped presentation and award points in various categories. This year's judging took place in May.

Each of the three first place winners received a DVD player, a gold medal, and a certificate. All three are now graduates of St. Joseph High School.

The director and videographer for this annual event is science teacher Br. James Petrait, OSFS, who started the symposium in 2000.



Sylvia Connor-Navarro's project was entitled "The Eratosthenes Project: Measuring the Earth with Shadows." This was Ms. Connor-Navarro's third winning entry in the symposium.



Jana James' project was on "The Effects of Microwave Radiation on Germination of *Raphanus sativus*."



Eliana Schuster's project was on "The Effects of Temperature Change on the Germination of *Allium cepa*." This was Ms. Schuster's second winning entry.

The Pride of Our Parishes



Parishioner Kenny Augustin is painting Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on St. John in preparation for its pending dedication.

POPE BENEDICT XVI: “NO ALTERNATIVE TO MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

VATICAN CITY, JUN 4, 2005 (VIS) - Made public today was a letter from the Holy Father to Cardinal Alfonso Lopez Trujillo, president of the Pontifical Council for the Family, in which he renews the invitation made by John Paul II to attend the Fifth World Meeting of Families, due to be held in Valencia, Spain, in July 2006.

After recalling the theme of the meeting, “Transmission of Faith in the Family,” the Pope writes in his letter, dated May 17, that he aims “to encourage, as John Paul II did, ‘the stupendous novelty,’ the ‘Gospel of the family,’ the value of which has central importance for the Church and for society.”

“In order to give a truly human face to society,” he goes on, “no one can ignore the precious gift of the family, based on matrimony. The marriage bond, in which man and woman together constitute a life-long association, ordered by its very nature for the good of the spouses and the generation and education of children,” is the basis of the family, the heritage and shared wealth of humanity. Thus the Church cannot cease to announce that, in accordance with God’s plans, marriage and the family are irreplaceable and admit no alternatives.”

Benedict XVI underscores that “today more than ever, the Christian family has a most noble and inexorable mission, that of transmitting the faith. ... Parents are the first evangelizers of their children, precious gifts of the Creator, beginning with teaching them their first prayers. Thus a moral universe is created, one rooted in the will of God and in which children are raised in human and Christian values that give full meaning to life.”

PAPAL PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs of Pope Benedict XVI and the late Pope John Paul II are available from Catholic News Service. The prices begin at \$15 for 8”x10” photographs. Order from www.catholicnews.com or call (202) 541-3293.

POPE BENEDICT XVI: THE CHURCH IS COMMITTED TO CATHOLIC-JEWISH RELATIONS

VATICAN CITY, JUN 9, 2005 (VIS) - Pope Benedict today welcomed a high-level delegation of the International Jewish Committee on Inter-religious Consultations (IJCIC), noting that the meeting “takes place during this year which marks the fortieth anniversary of the Declaration ‘Nostra Aetate’ of the Second Vatican Council, whose teaching has served as the basis of the Church’s relationship with the Jewish people since then.”

He remarked that “the Council affirmed the Church’s conviction that ... the beginnings of her faith are already to be found in Abraham, Moses and the prophets” and it “called for greater mutual understanding and esteem between Christians and Jews and deplored all manifestations of hatred, persecution and anti-semitism. At the very beginning of my pontificate, I wish to assure you that the Church remains firmly committed, in her catechesis and in every aspect of her life, to implementing this decisive teaching.”

“In the years following the Council,” stated Benedict, “my predecessors Pope Paul VI and, in a particular way, Pope John Paul II, took significant steps towards improving relations with the Jewish people. It is my intention to continue on this path. The history of relations between our two communities has been complex and often painful, yet I am convinced that the ‘spiritual patrimony’ treasured by Christian and Jews ... will lead to ‘a future of hope’. ... At the same time, remembrance of the past remains for both communities a moral imperative and a source of purification in our efforts to pray and work for reconciliation, justice, respect for human dignity and for that peace which is ultimately a gift from the Lord himself. Of its very nature this imperative must include a continued reflection on the profound historical, moral and theological questions presented by the experience of the Shoah.”

In closing remarks, the Pope noted that 18 meetings have been held over a 35-year period between the IJCIC and the Holy See’s Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, saying “I give thanks to the Lord for the progress which has been made in these years, and I encourage you to persevere in your important work.”

*Our Blessed Mother's Message from Medjugorje
May 25, 2005*

“Dear children! Anew I call you to live my messages in humility. Especially witness them now when we are approaching the anniversary of my apparitions. Little children, be a sign to those who are far from God and His love. I am with you and bless you all with my motherly blessing. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

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ST. CROIX CALENDAR

HOLY HOURS/EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Holy Cross Church will have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction on July 1 and all First Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

St. Joseph Church will have a bilingual Holy Hour with Exposition and Benediction on July 1 and all First Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

HEALING MASS

St. Patrick Church will host a healing Mass on July 1 and all First Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

SANTO NIÑO DEVOTION/RECONCILIATION

Devotions to El Santo Niño are at St. Joseph Church on July 2 and all First Saturdays at 4:30 p.m.

SECULAR FRANCISCANS

The Our Lady of the Angels Fraternity meets at the Franciscan House on July 10 and the second Sunday of each month at 3:00 p.m.

EVENINGS OF CHARISMATIC PRAYER

St. Patrick Church will hold an evening of charismatic prayer on July 15 and the third Friday of each month.

St. Ann Church holds charismatic prayer meetings on Tuesdays, Holy Cross Church on Thursdays, and St. Joseph Church on Fridays. All meetings begin gathering at 7:00 p.m.

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Jim and Centelia Matthews lead a cancer support group at St. Ann Church on July 20 and the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

SECULAR ORDER DISCALCED CARMELITES

Secular Order Discalced Carmelites meet July 24 and every fourth Sunday at St. Ann Church at 1:00 p.m.

PATRONAL FEAST

The patronal feast of St. Ann Church will be celebrated with a triduum on July 26-28 and a Patronal Mass on Sunday, July 31. Fr Kizito Abizi of Takoradi, Ghana, will preach the triduum and celebrate the Mass.

LEGION OF MARY

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

CURSILLO ULTREYA MEETINGS

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 meets at St. Joseph Church on Mondays and Fridays and at Holy Cross Church on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

BLUE ARMY OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA

The Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima meets in the chapel at Holy Cross Church on Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. Entry is by the gate to the rectory.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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

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ST. THOMAS

HOLY HOURS/EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

St. Anne Chapel has a Holy Hour with Exposition and Benediction on July 1 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.

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.

Holy Family Church has a Holy Hour with Exposition and Benediction on Fridays at 6:30 p.m.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA DEVOTION

The Children of Mary lead a devotion to Our Lady of Fatima at Holy Family Church on July 2 and the first Saturday of each month at 4:00 p.m.

SECULAR FRANCISCANS

The Lady Clare of Assisi Fraternity meets at Holy Family Church on July 9 and the second Saturday of each month at 1:00 p.m.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The Holy Family Chapter meets at Holy Family Church on July 12 and the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF AMERICA

Court 2049 meets at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral's Hospitality Lounge on July 16 and the third Saturday of each month at 2:00 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 Praesidium Mary, Queen of Archangels meets at the St. Anne Chapel Hall on Sundays at 1:30 p.m.

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

Praesidium 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

A pot luck breakfast will be held at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on July 1 and all First Fridays after the 7:00 a.m. Mass.

HOLY HOUR/EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

A Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction follows the 7:00 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on July 1 and all First Fridays. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available.

PATRONAL FEAST

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church will celebrate its patronal feast with devotions and lectures on Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and a Patronal Mass. Bishop George Murry will present the first talk on Wednesday, July 13, Very Rev. Neil Scantlebury will speak on Thursday, July 14, and a team led by Fr. Charles Crespo will speak on Friday, July 15, all at 7:00 p.m. Bishop Murry will celebrate the Patronal Mass on Saturday, July 16, at 6:00 p.m.

EVENINGS OF CHARISMATIC PRAYER

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

HEALING MASSES

A priest lays on hands for physical, spiritual, emotional and psychological healing at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on Fridays at 8:30 a.m. Mass.

LEGION OF MARY

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



Deacon Hector Moreno of LaCrosse, Wisconsin, taught on the Eucharist at the charismatic prayer meeting at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on St. John on June 2. The charismatic prayer group meets every Thursday at 7:00 p.m.