

THE CATHOLIC ISLANDER

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

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ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI BLESSING OF PETS

The feast day of St. Francis of Assisi is October 4, and in honor of his renowned love for animals, parishes and schools on three islands celebrated with a traditional blessing of pets.



Fr. John Mark blessed pets at Ss. Peter and Paul School on St. Thomas on October 4.



Fr. Charles Crespo blessed a dozen dogs outside Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on St. John on September 30.



Fr. Cecil Corneille blessed pets outside the Youth Center at St. Joseph Church on St. Croix on October 4.



All creatures great and small were blessed at a block party between Holy Cross Church and St. Mary School on St. Croix on October 7. The festivities included games, food, live music and donkey rides. Participants had their photographs taken with their pets and imprinted on t-shirts.



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 NOVEMBER 2006 PUBLIC SCHEDULE

Wednesday, November 1, 12:15 p.m., All Saints Day Mass, Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral, St. Thomas.

Thursday, November 2, 12:15 p.m., All Souls Day Mass, Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral, St. Thomas.

November 12-16, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops meeting, Baltimore, Maryland.

Monday, November 20, 8:30 a.m., Ss. Peter and Paul School Thanksgiving Mass, Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral, St. Thomas.

Monday, November 20, noon, Visit, Bethlehem House Shelter for the Homeless, St. Thomas.

Tuesday, November 21, 9:30 a.m., St. Mary, St. Patrick, St. Joseph Schools Thanksgiving School Mass, St. Ann Church, St. Croix.

Tuesday, November 21, noon, Visit, Bethlehem House Shelter for the Homeless, St. Croix.

Thursday, November 23, 9:00 a.m., Thanksgiving Mass, Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral, St. Thomas.

Tuesday, November 28, St. Thomas/St. John Deanery meeting, Columban Hall, St. Thomas.

Wednesday, November 29, 5:30 p.m., Library re-opening ceremony, Ss. Peter and Paul School, St. Thomas.

CONFIRMATIONS

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be held deanery-wide rather than at each parish in 2007. Bishop George Murry, SJ, will confirm all St. Croix candidates on St. Ann Church on May 20, 2007. Bishop Murry will confirm St. Thomas candidates at Holy Family Church on Sunday, June 3, 2007.

SHELTER VISITS

Bishop George Murry, SJ, will visit with residents of the Bethlehem House Shelters for the Homeless on St. Thomas and St. Croix in the days prior to Thanksgiving. He will visit the St. Thomas facility on Monday, November 20, and the St. Croix facility on Tuesday, November 21. Both shelters are operated by Catholic Charities of the Virgin Islands.

THANKSGIVING SCHOOL MASS

Bishop George Murry, SJ, will celebrate two pre-Thanksgiving Masses for Catholic School students. Students of Ss. Peter and Paul School on St. Thomas will attend the Mass next door at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on Monday, November 20, at 8:30 a.m. Students of St. Mary, St. Patrick and St. Joseph Schools on St. Croix will be bussed to the Mass at St. Ann Church on Tuesday, November 21, at 9:30 a.m.

On Thanksgiving Day, which is Thursday, November 23, Bishop Murry will celebrate a 9:00 a.m. Mass at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas.

BISHOP WELCOMES PRIEST



Bishop George Murry, SJ, (right) welcomed Fr. Henrique Schulerbrandt, CSsR, (center) to the diocese at the Presbyteral Council meeting on September 27. Fr. Schulerbrandt is the new Parochial Vicar at St. Patrick Church on St. Croix. Also pictured is Fr. John McLoughlin, Pastor of St. Patrick Church.

*The Diocese of St. Thomas
in the Virgin Islands
has a new website:
www.catholicvi.com*

SCHOOL LIBRARY AND SCIENCE CENTER

Ss. Peter and Paul School on St. Thomas will showcase its new \$50,000 library at a re-opening ceremony on Thursday, November 30, at 5:30 p.m. The new venue, largely made possible by contributions from alumni, replaces the original library damaged by Hurricane Marilyn in 1995. The new library has been in use by students since the beginning of the 2006-2007 academic year.

The school's next capital project is the construction of a Science Center. The anticipated cost will be \$100,000, of which \$66,000 already has been donated. The work is scheduled to begin in January 2007, and is expected to be completed in time for the 2007-2008 academic year.

CARING FOR THE NEEDY AT THANKSGIVING

On Thanksgiving Day, November 23, several parishes in the diocese will have a blessing of bread and other foods at morning Masses and then prepare meals for the needy.

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

On St. John, Cruz Bay's homeless will be invited to sit with Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church parishioners at a community meal in the Guadalupe Hall beginning at noon.

BICYCLE DONATIONS FOR HIV-INFECTED CHILDREN

Parishioners at St. Ann Church on St. Croix donated ten bicycles for the residents of the Cyril Ross Home in Tunapuna, Trinidad. Built by the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the residence houses over 50 HIV-infected youth from three-month-old children to young adults in their twenties. Seminarian Anthony Abraham, who is from Trinidad and is presently studying at the seminary there, coordinated the effort.

PASTORAL CARE SYMPOSIUM

Rev. Dr. George Franklin will be among the speakers at a symposium at the Charlotte Kimelman Cancer Institute Auditorium on November 14 and 15 at 9:00 a.m. Presented by the Pastoral Care and Bio-Medical Ethics Committee of the Roy Lester Schneider Regional Medical Center, the 15th annual symposium runs November 13-17. This year's program is entitled "Impact of Stress on Daily Lives and Breaking the Cycle."

FORMER VI PRIEST ASSISTS MILITARY COUPLES

Fr. Alejandro Sanchez, former Administrator of St. Anne Chapel on St. Thomas, is now full-time chaplain to the Joint Forces Headquarters (JFHQ), located in Old San Juan, serving both the Puerto Rico National Guard and the Puerto Rico Air National Guard.

"For the foreseeable future, a big part of my ministry here will be to coordinate the Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP) seminars, designed to offer soldiers and their spouses a variety of tools and techniques for better communication," Fr. Sanchez told *The Catholic Islander*, stressing that PREP is not therapy or a religious retreat. "Implementation of the program has become urgently necessary due to the high rate of divorces among soldiers that have been involved in a recent deployment overseas. We want to address and minimize this problem. The first seminar in Puerto Rico in September was successful, with 48 couples participating and responding positively."

THANKSGIVING RAFFLE

For its annual fundraiser, St. Patrick Church on St. Croix is once again raffling cash prizes. The first prize is \$7,500, second prize is \$3,000, third prize is \$1,000, and the fourth and fifth prizes are \$500. Individual raffles are \$5, while a book of twelve raffles is \$50. Winners will be announced at the annual Thanksgiving Quadrille at St. Gerard Hall on Friday, November 24.

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ALL SAINTS DAY

On All Saints Day, November 1, Catholics recall the saints in heaven. It is a holy day of obligation: the first precept of the Church, "You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation," requires Catholics to attend Mass on that day. Many parishes will have both morning and evening Masses that day.

ALL SOULS DAY

On All Souls Day, Catholics are invited to pray for the departed faithful still in purgatory. Although all parishes will celebrate Masses that day, several Virgin Islands parishes are planning special events to commemorate All Souls Day on Thursday, November 2.

Holy Cross Church on St. Croix will have a procession from the church to Christiansted Cemetery beginning at noon. Fr. Pat Lynch, Pastor, will celebrate Mass at the cemetery.

Congregants at two parishes are invited to bring to Mass a flower to place by the altar in remembrance of their dearly departed during the prayers of intercession. St. Joseph Church on St. Croix will have a bilingual Mass at 7:00 p.m. Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on St. John will have the Mass at 8:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

DOMINICA INDEPENDENCE

Dominica will celebrate twenty-eight years of independence on November 3. Catholics in the Virgin Islands will remember the occasion with festive French Creole Masses.

Fr. Herman Sharplis of Vielle Case, Dominica, will celebrate Mass at St. Ann Church on St. Croix on Sunday, November 5, at 9:30 a.m. He will celebrate Mass at Holy Family Church on St. Thomas on the following Sunday, November 12, at 10:00 a.m.

NUESTRA SEÑORA DE PROVIDENCIA, PATRONESS OF PUERTO RICO

Three parishes will celebrate the Feast of Nuestra Señora de Providencia (Our Lady of Divine Providence), patroness of Puerto Rico, with Spanish Masses on Sunday, November 19.

The largest celebration likely will be the one at St. Joseph Church on St. Croix, where Mass in Spanish will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m., followed by a reception with traditional Puerto Rican dishes in the Hospitality Lounge and Learning Center. Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas will celebrate the Mass at 12:30 p.m. and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on St. John at 5:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Divine Providence, one of many titles of Mary, the mother of Jesus, has been considered the patroness of Puerto Rico for approximately 150 years.

ALUMNI NEWS

Ss. Peter and Paul School on St. Thomas will host its annual Alumni Re-Connect Cocktail Sip and Silent Auction at the Petite Pump Room on Friday, November 17 at 6:00 p.m. Virgin Islands history and cultural memorabilia will be auctioned. Tickets are available at the school and at St. Thomas and St. John parishes for \$25.

Rev. Dr. George Franklin, President/Principal, is soliciting additional donations of historical memorabilia for the auction.

Alumni are also invited to attend Mass at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on Sunday, November 19, at 10:30 a.m., and an Open House at the school on Monday, November 20, at 8:00 a.m.

ALTAR SERVERS ON RETREAT



Altar Servers from Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Holy Family Church and St. Anne Chapel on St. Thomas shared a retreat at the Light of Christ Retreat Center on St. Croix on October 6-9. On Saturday they visited all of the parishes on St. Croix, and each pastor gave them a history of their church. Fr. Kenneth Gaddy, CSsR, Director of the Blessed Peter Donders Residence, met with them at St. Patrick Church and spoke to them about a life of prayer. The retreat closed on Sunday with Mass at St. Patrick Church and a picnic at Kramers Park.

¡BUENAS NOTICIAS!

CÓDIGO DE CONDUCTA

Todo el personal diocesano, incluyendo sacerdotes, diáconos, administradores y voluntarios, recibirá un documento de dos partes llamado *Código de Conducta y Policías y Procedimientos Acerca de Menores*. La primera parte perfila lineamientos de ética que se espera de todos los que trabajan y ofrecen su tiempo en nuestras parroquias, escuelas o agencias. La segunda parte resume la manera en que el personal diocesano debe proteger a los niños del daño. Todo el personal diocesano debe leer el documento, luego firmar y enviar el formulario de consentimiento en la página final.

DÍA DE TODOS LOS SANTOS

El 1 de noviembre, Día de Todos los Santos, pedimos ayuda de los que ya están con Dios en el cielo. Ese día de precepto, significando que es obligación asistir a Misa.

DÍA DE LOS FIELES DIFUNTOS

El 2 de noviembre, el Día de Todos los Fieles Difuntos, los católicos oran para que las almas del purgatorio logren ingresar al Reino de los Cielos. Aunque todas las parroquias celebrarán Misas este día, varias parroquias de las Islas Vírgenes están organizando eventos especiales.

La Iglesia Holy Cross en Santa Cruz tendrá una procesión desde la parroquia hasta el cementerio de Christiansted, empezando al mediodía. P. Pat Lynch, Párroco, celebrará la Misa en el cementerio.

Dos parroquias invitan a feligreses a traer una flor para poner en frente del altar durante las oraciones de intercesión en recuerdo de sus seres queridos que han partido. La Iglesia San José en Santa Cruz tendrá una Misa bilingüe a las 7:00 p.m. y la Iglesia Nuestra Señora del Carmen en St. John tendrá la Misa a las 8:30 a.m. y 7:00 p.m.

SACERDOTE AYUDA A LAS PAREJAS MILITARES

P. Alejandro Sánchez, antiguo administrador de la Capilla de Sta. Ana en Sto. Tomás, es ahora el capellán a tiempo completo de la oficina principal de las Fuerzas de Unidad (JFHQ), localizada en el Viejo San Juan, sirviendo a la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico y a la Guardia Nacional de las Fuerzas Áreas de Puerto Rico.

“Para el futuro, una gran parte de mi ministerio aquí será coordinar los seminarios acerca de los Programas de Prevención en la Mejora de las Relaciones, diseñados para ofrecer una variedad de herramientas y técnicas a soldados y a sus esposas a fin de lograr una buena comunicación,” dijo el P. Sánchez. “La escuela preparatoria no es terapia o un retiro religioso. La implementación del programa se ha convertido en algo necesario debido a la alta proporción de divorcios entre soldados que han estado en altamar envuelto en un reciente despliegue. Queremos minimizar esto. El primer seminario en Puerto Rico en septiembre tuvo éxito, con la participación de 48 parejas que respondieron positivamente.”

NUESTRA SEÑORA DE PROVIDENCIA

Tres parroquias celebrarán la fiesta de Nuestra Señora de la Divina Providencia, patrona de Puerto Rico, el domingo 19 de noviembre, con Misas y recepciones. Las celebraciones serán en la Iglesia San José en Sta. Cruz a las 10.00 a.m., la Catedral San Pedro y San Pablo en Sto. Tomás a las 12.30 p.m., y la Iglesia Nuestra Señora del Carmen en St. John a las 5.00 p.m.

Nuestra Señora de la Divina Providencia es una de las muchas advocaciones que tiene María, la Madre de Jesús. Ha sido considerada como patrona de Puerto Rico por aproximadamente 150 años.

PROGRAMA DE JÓVENES

Varios estudiantes de la escuela superior se reúnen cada domingo en el Salón Guadalupe de la Iglesia Nuestra Señora del Carmen en St. John para participar en una introducción a la fe católica. En diez domingos, las actividades contestan preguntas como ¿Quién es Jesús? y ¿Porque murió Jesús? Las reuniones son a las 6.00 p.m. Pronto se anunciará un grupo similar para jóvenes menores.

DESAYUNO CON EL PÁRROCO

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

HORA SANTA

La Iglesia San José en Sta. Cruz tiene una Hora Santa bilingüe con Exposición y Bendición del Santísimo Sacramento el 3 de noviembre y el primer viernes de cada mes a las 7.00 p.m.

CURSILLO ULTREYA

Miembros del Movimiento de Cursillos se reúnen en el Salón de Hospitalidad de la Iglesia San José en Sta. Cruz los lunes después de la Misa de las 7.00 p.m.

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.

MISA HISPANA EN TELEVISIÓN

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

Catholic Education

TERRITORIAL POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

Two students from St. Joseph High School on St. Croix won the Puerto Rico-Virgin Islands Friendship Day Committee's poster contest. Sioned Hernandez and Akiel Guzman, tenth graders, included many symbols from both cultures in their drawing, including Virgin Islands mocko jumbie and Puerto Rican masquerader, and both flags. Their drawing was featured in the booklet and poster for the Friendship Day festivities on October 13-16.



Sioned Hernandez and Akiel Guzman, tenth graders at St. Joseph High School on St. Croix, won the Puerto Rico-Virgin Islands Friendship Poster Contest.

STUDENTS CLEAN BEACH

Thirteen students from St. Joseph High School on St. Croix earned community service hours by participating in the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup on October 7. Led by Martha Newchurch, their chemistry and environmental studies teacher, the ninth and tenth graders hauled away 15 bags of trash and two tires from North Star Beach.

Since the first cleanup in 1986, the event has grown from a local event at one beach in Texas to the largest event of its kind. Each year, thousands of volunteers from around the globe participate, clearing tons of trash from coastlines, rivers and lakes and recording every piece of trash collected.



Martha Newchurch (right) and some of her students from St. Joseph High School participated in Cleanup St. Croix Day at North Star Beach on October 7.

SPIRITUAL WORKSHOP



The seventh grade students at St. Patrick School on St. Croix attended a Spiritual Workshop at the St. Joseph Church Hospitality Lounge and Learning Center on September 22. Under the direction of Pamela Tinsley-Moors, Principal, the goal was to build spiritual character through song and praise. The students are shown above signing the song "Awesome God."



Five students from St. Joseph High School offered Peer Counseling to seventh graders during their Spiritual Workshop. They were, left to right, Tyrell Martin, Luanda Garcia, Dominique James and James Davoren; Travis Morton is not pictured.



On the Road to Jerusalem

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

FINDING GOD EVERY DAY

What is our goal in the spiritual life? The answer is found in the testimony of the saints. Our spiritual goal in life is to be in communion with God so that we may share His life and live with Him forever. But how do we do that given that we all live busy lives?

We have commitments to our families that require enormous amounts of time. Work makes demands upon us, not only in those areas for which we are responsible but also in responding to the reasonable and unreasonable expectations of others. Nor can we discount the time it takes to answer emails, text messages, faxes and ordinary phone calls.

One unexpected result of the fast pace of our contemporary society is boredom. Because everything happens so fast, we have gotten used to continual stimulation. Human life, however, is not one stimulating event after another. When stimulation is missing then boredom appears. We see it on the faces of teenagers who are momentarily unable to use their MP-3 players. As adults, boredom shows itself as an inability to patiently listen to children or co-workers or remain focused during Mass when a silence occurs.

The need we have in Western society for constant stimulation also affects our spiritual lives. With all the noise and all the stress, our life in the Spirit can become fragmented. We begin to feel disconnected from God and only experience fleeting moments of spiritual communion, for example, at a wedding or funeral, or when we hear a particularly meaningful song.

Short-lived moments of spiritual communion are not what God intends for us. Through grace, God offers us the opportunity to be with Him every day, at every moment, in all that we do that is good. But to reach that goal, we must take three steps.

First, we must honestly evaluate how we stand before God. Do we love God before any other love? Are we free of serious sin? Have we given all to the Lord? If our answer to any of those questions is “no,” we have some work to do.

Second, we must re-tune ourselves to the voice of God. The Lord speaks to us through the events of our day. But if we do not know His voice, we will not recognize it. We can re-tune ourselves to God’s voice by reading the Scriptures daily. They are His word and in them we will hear His voice.

Lastly, we must form new habits for living that will bring us closer to God. This is what theologians call conversion: a change in the way we live and think. Many of the time-consuming activities of our lives we do out of habit. To deepen our spiritual life, we need to make choices about what is important and what is not. Our relationship with God needs to be among the most important aspects of life. Therefore, making time for prayer, morning and evening prayer, the rosary or the angelus, is essential.

With the help of God, we can be companions of Jesus every day of our lives. If we stand honestly before Him, seek to hear His voice and make choices that bring us closer to His love, He will walk with us and shepherd us **On the road to Jerusalem.**

CODE OF CONDUCT

All diocesan personnel, including, priests, deacons, administrators, staff and volunteers will begin receiving a two-part document called *Code of Conduct* and *Policies and Procedures Concerning Minors*. The first part will outline general ethics expected of all who work or volunteer in our parishes, schools or agencies. The second part summarizes the manner in which diocesan personnel are to protect children from harm. All diocesan personnel must read the document and then sign and submit the consent form on the back page.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

The Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands is committed to protecting children from all harm. If you have knowledge that any priest, deacon or church worker may have abused a minor, please immediately contact the Vicar General of the diocese, Msgr. Michael Kosak, at (340) 778-0484 or Bishop George Murry, SJ, at (340) 774-3166.

NEW PRAYER GROUP

Several parishioners on St. Thomas who participated in Alpha in recent years have formed a prayer group called Souls for the Holy Spirit. Representatives from every Catholic parish on St. Thomas meet on Wednesdays in various homes. The members pray for the bishop, all parishes and priests, and the intentions of the Holy Father. They also pray for the sick and their own special intentions.



Souls for the Holy Spirit recently met for prayer at the home of Noreen Bryan of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

BISHOP THOMAS HONORED AMONG OCTOGENARIANS



The Prayers, Hymns and Praise Steel Orchestra of Holy Family Church on St. Thomas honored Bishop Elliott Thomas and all Catholic parishioners who turn 80 years old in 2006 with a dinner at the Wyndham Sugar Bay Resort on October 15. Pictured above, Msgr. Jerome Feudjio (left), Pastor of Holy Family Church, presented Bishop Thomas with a gift.

LOCAL HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS

Catholic Charities of the Virgin Islands will participate in National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week on November 12-18 along with other members of the Interagency Council on Homelessness and the Continuum of Care. This is the fourth 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 begin with a Day of Prayer for the poor and homeless. Pastors on all three islands have been asked to include prayers for the poor and homeless in their church services on Saturday, November 11, and Sunday, November 12.

The week of activities formally begins with a march from three St. Thomas locations, Emile Griffith Park, the Roy Lester Schneider Medical Center and the Department of Human Services on Monday, November 13, at 5:00 p.m. Many marchers will wear Hunger and Homelessness Awareness t-shirts, carry banners and hand out literature en route to Emancipation Gardens.

During the Awareness Week, representatives of the participating agencies will speak on hunger and homelessness in schools and on television and radio programs. The agencies will lead food drives to assist homeless shelters, soup kitchens and outreach centers. The agencies 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; these letters will be delivered to the Legislature on Friday, November 17.

High School students on St. Thomas will participate in an essay contest, "Caring for the Homeless: Whose Job Is It?" St. Croix students will participate in an essay contest, "What We Can Do in Our Community to Help People Experiencing Homelessness" and an art contest, "What Homelessness Looks Like in the Virgin Islands." The St. Croix contests are open to students at the grammar, junior high and high school levels, and there will be first, second and third place prizes for each grade level.

St. Croix activities will culminate with an "Evening of Dining" on Friday, November 17, where the homeless population will be invited to a sit-down dinner. On St. Thomas, the week will culminate on Saturday, November 18, with a "Feeding the Homeless" program at Market Square. Participating organizations will disseminate literature outlining their services, and lunch and refreshments will be provided to the homeless and whoever wishes to partake.

YOUTH ALPHA



Youth Alpha is an introduction to the Catholic faith for teens that over ten weeks looks at topics from “Who is Jesus?” and “Why did Jesus die?” to “How and why should I read the Bible?” High school students meet in the Guadalupe Hall of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on St. John every Sunday at 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATIONS



Fr. Charles Crespo, Pastor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on St. John, was invited to pray the invocation at the second annual Unity Day Rally in Franklyn A. Powell, Jr. Park on October 1 (above).



Fr. Crespo prayed the invocation at a candlelight procession against domestic violence at the same park on October 19. He is shown below lighting a candle for another marcher, Julia Joseph Somersall.

ST. JOHN CALENDAR

ALL SOULS DAY

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church will have two Masses on All Souls Day at 8:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Congregants are invited to bring to Mass a flower to recall their deceased loved ones. During the prayers of intercession, Fr. Charles Crespo, Pastor, will invite the congregants to come forward and place the flowers by the altar in remembrance of their dearly departed.

BREAKFAST WITH THE PASTOR

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

FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HOUR

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church has a Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction on November 3 and all First Fridays after the 7:00 p.m. Mass.

NUESTRA SEÑORA DE PROVIDENCIA

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church celebrates the feast of Nuestra Señora de Providencia, Patroness of Puerto Rico, with a Spanish Mass on Sunday, November 19, at 5:00 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.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

Youths of high school age meet for Youth Alpha in the Guadalupe Hall of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on Sundays at 6:00 p.m.

SILENT EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church hosts an hour of silence before the Blessed Sacrament on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.

EVENINGS OF CHARISMATIC PRAYER

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

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 Friday, November 3 and all First Fridays, that Mass is at 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

The Pride of Our Parishes



Mary Rene is among the parishioners that clean in and around Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on St. John on Saturday mornings.

Our Blessed Mother's Message from Medjugorje
September 25, 2006

“Dear children! Also today I am with you and call all of you to complete conversion. Decide for God, little children, and you will find in God the peace your heart seeks. Imitate the lives of saints and may they be an example for you; and I will inspire you as long as the Almighty permits me to be with you. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

Courtesy of Claire & John Foster

ERRATA

Due to a publishing error, the St. Croix Calendar was not published in the October 2006 *Catholic Islander*.

In the same issue, in the page two article on Bishop Murry's Pastoral Plan, the date of the diocesan convocation was given as 1994. The correct year was 2004.

Also on the same page, Bishop Murry's name was spelled incorrectly in his public schedule.

We apologize for these errors.

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ST. CROIX CALENDAR

HOLY HOURS/EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Holy Cross Church has Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction on November 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 November 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 November 3 and all First Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

SANTO NIÑO DEVOTION/RECONCILIATION

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

DOMINICA INDEPENDENCE DAY MASS

Fr. Herman Sharplis of Vielle Case, Dominica, will celebrate a Dominica Independence Day Mass in English and French Creole at St. Ann Church on Sunday, November 5, at 9:30 a.m.

FRANCISCAN SPIRITUALITY

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

PRO-LIFE PRAYER VIGIL

The Pro-Life Committee of Holy Cross Church will hold a prayer vigil across from the abortion clinic at Beeston Hill Medical Center on Tuesday, November 14, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Jim and Centelia Matthews lead a cancer support group at St. Ann Church on November 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 November 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.

NUESTRA SEÑORA DE PROVIDENCIA

St. Joseph Church celebrates the feast of Nuestra Señora de Providencia, Patroness of Puerto Rico, with a Spanish Mass on Sunday, November 19, at 10:00 p.m. A reception follows in the Hospitality Lounge and Learning Center.

MAGNIFICAT

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

CARMELITE SPIRITUALITY

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

THANKSGIVING QUADRILLE

St. Patrick Church will have its annual Thanksgiving Quadrille at St. Gerard Hall on Friday, November 24, at 10:00 p.m. Raffle winners will be announced.

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 has a Celebration of the Word at St. Joseph Church on Mondays and at Holy Cross Church on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Sr. Germaine Convery, WIF, offers Spiritual Direction on Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Light of Christ Retreat Center. Appointments are not necessary, and no fee is charged.

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.

ALPHA

Alpha, a basic course in Catholic faith, meets at St. Joseph Church's Hospitality Lounge on Wednesdays in November at 6:30 p.m. The program begins with supper, followed by a talk and small group discussions.

CATHOLIC APOLOGETICS

Deacon Denis Griffith teaches a Catholic Apologetics course at St. Ann Church on Thursdays in November (except Thanksgiving) at 7:00 p.m.

ST. THOMAS CALENDAR

HOLY HOURS/EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

St. Anne Chapel has a Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction on November 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.

BINGO

Ss. Peter and Paul School will have bingo on Friday, November 3, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church will have bingo in the Parish Hall on Sunday, November 5, beginning at 2:00 p.m.

MAGNIFICAT

Magnificat, a ministry to Catholic women, meets at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral's Hospitality Lounge on November 4 and the first Saturday of each month at 8:30 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 4 and the first Saturday of each month at 4:00 p.m.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The Holy Family Chapter shares Vincentian spirituality at Holy Family Church on Sunday, November 5, at 4:30 p.m.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

Guest speakers will teach at Holy Family Church on November 6 and 13 at 7:00 p.m.

FRANCISCAN SPIRITUALITY

The Lady Clare of Assisi Fraternity shares Franciscan spirituality at Holy Family Church on November 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 November 12 and the second Sunday of each month at 9:30 a.m.

DOMINICA INDEPENDENCE DAY MASS

Fr. Herman Sharplis of Vielle Case, Dominica, will celebrate a Dominica Independence Day Mass in English and French Creole at Holy Family Church on Sunday, November 12, at 10:00 a.m.

PASTORAL CARE SYMPOSIUM

Rev. Dr. George Franklin will be among the speakers at a symposium "Impact of Stress on Daily Lives and Breaking the Cycle" at the Charlotte Kimelman Cancer Institute Auditorium on November 14 and 15 at 9:00 a.m.

ALUMNI RE-CONNECT

Ss. Peter and Paul School will host its annual Alumni Re-Connect Cocktail Sip and Silent Auction at the Petite Pump Room on Friday, November 17 at 6:00 p.m. Virgin Islands history and cultural memorabilia will be auctioned. Tickets are available at the school and at St. Thomas and St. John parishes for \$25.

Alumni are also invited to attend Mass at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on Sunday, November 19, at 10:30 a.m., and an Open House at the school on Monday, November 20, at 8:00 a.m.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF AMERICA

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

NUESTRA SEÑORA DE PROVIDENCIA

Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral celebrates the feast of Nuestra Señora de Providencia, Patroness of Puerto Rico, with a Spanish Mass on Sunday, November 19, at 12:30 p.m. A reception follows in the Hospitality Lounge.

FRENCH MASS

St. Anne Chapel will have a French Mass on Sunday, November 19, at 5:00 p.m.

MASS FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

Holy Family Church will celebrate a Mass for Health Care Professionals on Sunday, November 26, at 10:00 a.m.

SCHOOL LIBRARY RE-OPENING

Ss. Peter and Paul School will showcase its new library with a re-opening ceremony on Thursday, November 30, at 5:30 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.