

THE CATHOLIC ISLANDER

VOL. 21, NO. 2 FEBRUARY 2005

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

EXCLUSIVE NEWS INSIDE

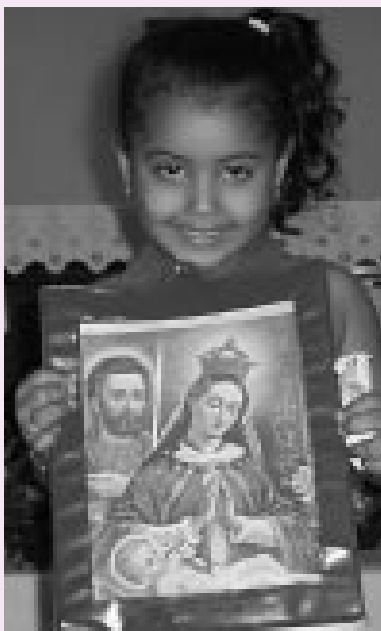
- *Eucharistic Congress in 2006
- *Bishop's Appeal Is Launched
- *Martin Luther King Day Events
- *Regional Youth Conference
- *Tsunami Relief Eyewitness
- *Nuestra Señora de Altagracia
- *Parish Lenten Schedules
- *Listings of Coming Events

FR. LYNCH MARCHES FOR LIFE IN WASHINGTON, DC



Fr. Pat Lynch, CSSR, Pastor of Holy Cross Church on St. Croix, joined in the March for Life in Washington, DC, on January 24. His sister, nephew and friend also marched.

OUR LADY OF ALTAGRACIA



Winifer Caravallos posed with an image of the patroness of the Dominican Republic, Our Lady of High Graces ("Altagracia") at her patronal Mass at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on St. John on January 23.

DEACON GEORGE RECOVERING FROM STROKE



Deacon Hyacinthe George of St. Ann Church on St. Croix continues to recover well from a stroke he suffered on August 13. He is shown here with his wife Frances on a recent visit to the parish's Marian Hall.

INTERFAITH DIALOGUE OPENS PATHS OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING



Bishop George Murry, SJ, and Rabbi Arthur Starr launched a three-part interfaith dialogue with a discussion entitled "The God We Worship" at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas on January 12.



Notes from the Bishop's Desk

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

EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS ANNOUNCED FOR 2006

Bishop George Murry, SJ, has appointed Fr. Troy Schuster to coordinate a Eucharistic Congress to be held on St. Thomas in May 2006.

Fr. Schuster has approached internationally-known Catholic speakers and writers to lead a series of conferences over three to four days. Catholics throughout the Caribbean will be invited to participate. Fr. Schuster expects over 1,000 registrants for the conference. Details on dates, venues and registration fees will be announced in coming months.

DIOCESAN APPOINTMENTS

Bishop George Murry, SJ, has announced the following appointments.

Fr. William Montgomery as Administrator of St. Anne Chapel on St. Thomas, from January to June 2005. He replaces Msgr. Jerome Feudjio, who has been appointed to studies in Illinois.

Jocelyn Hodgson as Principal of St. Joseph High School on St. Croix, from January to August 2005.

Deacon Austin Medina to Holy Family Church on St. Thomas, effective Ash Wednesday. Deacon Medina had been serving at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on St. John for nearly three years.

PARISH SUPPORT FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Bishop George Murry, SJ, has asked the pastors of St. Croix to propose a plan for the parish support of Catholic schools in the Virgin Islands.

Very Rev. Kenneth Gaddy, CSsR, Fr. Cecil Corneille, Msgr. Michael Kosak and Fr. Pat Lynch, CSsR, are to submit their resolution to the members of the Presbyteral Council before their next meeting on March 22.

STANDARDIZATION OF SACRAMENTS

Bishop George Murry, SJ, has asked the pastors of St. Thomas and St. John to propose a plan for the standardization of sacraments in the Virgin Islands.

In recent years, some families have gone from parish to parish looking for the most convenient road to sacraments such as matrimony and baptism. Bishop Murry anticipates that Fr. Charles Crespo, Rev. Dr. George Franklin, Very Rev. Neil Scantlebury and Fr. Troy Schuster will agree on policies that would be identical in each parish of the diocese. They are to submit their resolution to the members of the Presbyteral Council before their next meeting on March 22.

BISHOP MURRY'S ITINERARY FOR FEBRUARY 2005

Feb. 2	7:00 p.m.	Liturgy Workshop	Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church	St. John
Feb. 4	7:00 p.m.	Bishop's Appeal Fundraiser	Coral World	St. Thomas
Feb. 5	7:00 p.m.	St. Mary School Dinner and Auction	Divi Carina Bay Ballroom	St. Croix
Feb. 6	10:30 a.m.	Mass	Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral	St. Thomas
Feb. 9		Mass	Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral	St. Thomas
Feb. 10	10:00 a.m.	STT/STJ Priests Meeting	Bishop's Residence	St. Thomas
Feb. 12	4:30 p.m.	Confessions	St. Joseph Church	St. Croix
	5:00 p.m.	Mass	St. Joseph Church	St. Croix
Feb. 13	7:30, 10:00 a.m.	Mass	St. Patrick Church	St. Croix
Feb. 15	6:30 p.m.	Mass	Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church	St. John
	7:00 p.m.	Lecture: Communion of Saints	Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church	St. John
Feb. 19	6:00 p.m.	Mass	Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral	St. Thomas
Feb. 20	8:00 a.m.	Mass	St. Ann Chapel	St. Thomas
	10:30 a.m.	Mass	Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral	St. Thomas

CONVOCAATION REPORT TO LEAD A PASTORAL PLAN

After months of subcommittee meetings, the Convocation Implementation Committee submitted its proposals for the diocese to Bishop George Murry, SJ, on January 25.

The document was based on the findings garnered at the Diocesan Convocation in May 2004. Twenty delegates met to turn the suggestions from the convocation into a working plan. Dozens of proposals cover the broad areas of education, evangelization, finances, parish unity and family life, social outreach, vocations, and youth.

Based on these reports, Bishop Murry will draft a five-year pastoral plan for the diocese.

KNIGHTS AND DAMES OF MALTA RECRUITED

Fr. Troy Schuster, Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church on St. Thomas, is preparing Catholics in the Virgin Islands to be considered for membership in the Sovereign Military Hospitalier Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta, more commonly known as the Knights and Dames of Malta.

The works of the Order of Malta are the defense of the Catholic faith and hands-on care of the poor, sick and illiterate.

Candidates must meet strict requirements for membership.

The investiture will take place at St. Patrick Cathedral in New York City in November. Cardinal Edward Egan will be the celebrant.

BISHOP'S APPEAL LAUNCHED

The 2005 Bishop's Appeal will again raise needed financial support for Catholic Charities of the Virgin Islands and the four Catholic schools in the Virgin Islands beginning February 12.

Bishop George Murry, SJ, invokes the appeal's theme when asking us "to make a difference" in addressing the needs of the most vulnerable in our community. Bishop Murry added that "Lent is an opportune time to focus our attention on the message of Jesus and his commitment and ministry to the poor."

The 2004 Bishop's Appeal raised over \$225,000. The goal for 2005 is \$300,000. In 2004, the appeal received 900 gifts from the families in the parishes of the Virgin Islands. The goal for 2005 is 1200 families. All money raised stays in the territory.

"These are challenging but very realistic numbers" said Charles Shain, Diocesan Director of Development and Marketing. "The number of families participating is the key to our success. The amount of sacrifice plays an important role, but so does an increase of participation."

For the six weeks of Lent, parish ministries and schools will raise funds exclusively for the 2005 Bishop's Appeal. The appeal ends March 23.

VOCATIONS RETREAT DRAWS YOUTH



Fr. John McLoughlin, CSsR, of the Diocesan Vocations Team, is shown speaking with some of the twenty youth who attended a vocations discernment retreat at the Light of Christ Retreat Center on St. Croix on December 11.

THE CATHOLIC ISLANDER is published monthly by the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands.

THE CATHOLIC ISLANDER is written, edited and printed solely in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

P.O. Box 301825, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, 00803-1825 <http://www.catholicislander.com>

Telephone: (340) 776-6339

Fax: (340) 693-7685

E-mail: editor@catholicislander.com

Publisher

The Most Reverend George V. Murry, SJ

Editor-in-Chief

Fr. Charles Crespo

Contributing Editor

Bernetia Akin

Copy Editor

Madeleine Anduze

Staff Photographers

Faye Abdullah-Boschulte

Webmaster

Br. James Petrait, OSFS

Circulation

Deacon Emith Fludd

THE CATHOLIC VOICE RADIO PROGRAMS

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. The February broadcasts are listed below.

Feb. 6 "From China with Love"

Feb. 13 "Healing Resentment"

Feb. 20 "The Journey of Forgiveness"

Feb. 27 "Gifts from Heaven"

AUCTION WILL RAISE FUNDS FOR ST. MARY SCHOOL

St. Mary School on St. Croix will hold its annual fundraising auction at the Divi Carina Bay Ballroom on Saturday, February 5. Cocktails will be served at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Furniture, jewelry, art, small appliances, home decorations and more will be available for silent and live bidding. Credit cards will be accepted.

The theme this year is oriental: "It's Chop Suey." Dinner tickets are available at Holy Cross Church and St. Mary School.

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY 2005

World Marriage Day will be celebrated at all parishes in the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands on the weekend of February 12-13. Special recognition will be given to couples who celebrate 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and 50+ years of marriage in the year 2005.

World Marriage Day honors husband and wife as head of the family, the basic unit of society. It salutes the beauty of their faithfulness, sacrifice and joy in daily married life.

The idea of celebrating marriage in this way began in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in 1981, when couples encouraged the mayor, the governor and the bishop to proclaim St. Valentine's Day as "We Believe in Marriage Day." The event was so successful that the idea was adopted by Worldwide Marriage Encounter's National Leadership. By 1982, forty-three governors officially proclaimed the day, and celebrations spread to U.S. military bases in several foreign countries. In 1983, the name was changed to "World Marriage Day," designated to be celebrated each year on the second Sunday in February. In 1993, his Holiness, Pope John Paul II, imparted his Apostolic Blessings on World Marriage Day.

Couples who registered at their parishes will receive a commemorative certificate from Bishop George Murry, SJ.

MSGR. FEUDJIO HONORED BY AFRICAN ASSOCIATION

Msgr. Jerome Feudjio will be among the honorees by the African Association of St. Thomas-St. John at its first-ever Humanitarian Awards Gala at Frenchman's Reef Hotel on St. Thomas on Saturday, February 19.

H.E. Edith Grace Ssempala (Ugandan Ambassador to the United States), Dr. Edidet Iniyama, Dr. Solomon Kabuka and James Nelson, MD, also will be recognized for addressing the problems of Africa, advancing African heritage and championing the successes of Africans at home and in the diaspora.

The dinner is at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$65 (\$35 for children).

FR. SCANTLEBURY HONORED BY BARBADOS ASSOCIATION

The Barbados Association of St. Thomas and St. John will honor Very Rev. Neil Scantlebury, Rector of Sts. Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas, at its annual dinner dance at the Palms Court Harbour View Hotel on Saturday, February 19, beginning with cocktails at 7:00 p.m.

The Barbados Association will also honor Neil Carty, Vice President of Betterroads Asphalt Company, and the late Gloria Husbands, a former member of the Barbados Association.

The "Independence Ball" celebrates the 38th anniversary of the independence of Barbados. Honorable Liz Thompson, Minister of Housing and Lands in Barbados, will be the keynote speaker. Milo's Kings will provide the music. Tickets are \$55.

ST. LUCIANS TO CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY

St. Lucians on St. Croix will celebrate the twenty-sixth anniversary of independence in St. Lucia with a French Creole Mass at St. Ann Church on Sunday, February 27, at 9:30 a.m. That Mass will also be broadcast live on WRRR 1290 AM.

St. Lucia was named by Christopher Columbus, who sighted the island on St. Lucy's feast day in 1502. In 1967, St. Lucia received a new constitution and, with independence in February 1979, St. Lucia became independent, as a constitutional monarchy and member of the Commonwealth.

On St. Lucia, Independence Day is marked with parades, calypso music and speeches by politicians.

CATHOLIC CLUB RESTARTS AT UVI

Three St. Thomas priests have been instrumental in reinstating the Catholic Club of the University of the Virgin Islands.

About twelve students meet on two Saturdays each month from 10:00 a.m. to noon in the Teachers Education Building, Room T212, to discuss faith and moral issues and to plan social activities. In addition, they are bussed to Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral for Sunday Mass.

Very Rev. Neil Scantlebury, Rev. Dr. George Franklin and Fr. John Mark are non-faculty advisers and have been facilitating many of the meetings.

REMEMBERING THE UNBORN

Parishioners at Holy Cross Church on St. Croix were called to remember the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass on January 23. Led by Fr. Michael Houston, CSsR, Parochial Vicar, all were invited to file out in silence and gather outside at a makeshift Tomb for the Unborn. Prayers were said for the unborn and all sang "Let There Be Peace on Earth" as the church bells tolled thirty-one times for the number of years that abortion has been legal in the United States.

VI TSUNAMI AID

Over \$10,000 was collected for the tsunami victims from Catholic parishes in the Virgin Islands, according to Michael Akin, Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the Virgin Islands (CCVI). A second collection at parishes over the January 2-3 weekend was forwarded to CCVI, which in turn passed the donation onto Catholic Relief Services.

Catholic Relief Services has promised \$25 million for the relief effort.

ONE BISHOP AND FIVE PRIESTS TEACH COURSE IN CATHOLIC FAITH

Bishop George V. Murry, SJ, and five priests are teaching the doctrines of the Catholic faith to adults in the Mt. Carmel College of Evangelization at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on St. John.

The Bible series started with a ten-Monday study on the book of Genesis beginning January 10, taught by Fr. Crespo. The doctrines taught on ten Tuesdays by a variety of Catholic clergy began on January 11. All classes begin at 7:00 p.m. Classes are free of charge and refreshments are served.

<u>Mondays</u>	<u>Old Testament Scripture I: The Book of Genesis</u>
February 7	Isaac & Ishmael Genesis 21-26
February 14	Jacob & Laban Genesis 27-31
February 21	Jacob & Esau Genesis 32-36
February 28	Joseph in Egypt Genesis 37-41
March 7	Joseph & His Brothers Genesis 42-46
March 14	Migration & Settlement Genesis 47-50

<u>Tuesdays</u>	<u>Catholic Apologetics: How to Defend the Catholic Faith</u>
February 1	"The Papacy" Fr. William Montgomery
February 8	"Confession" Rev. Dr. George Franklin
February 15	"Communion of Saints" Bishop George Murry, SJ
February 23	"Purgatory" Fr. Dwight Merrick
March 1	"The Eucharist" Fr. John Mark
March 8	"The Baptism of Infants" Fr. Neil Scantlebury
March 15	"The Trinity" Bishop George Murry, SJ

Coming soon:

Spring Trimester

Mondays
Tuesdays

April 4 to June 7

New Testament Scripture 1: The Book of Acts
The Catechism of the Catholic Church

Fall Trimester

Mondays
Tuesdays

September 12 to November 15

Old Testament Scripture 2: The Book of Exodus
Understanding the Seven Sacraments



Rev. Dr. George Franklin taught an apologetics class on "Call No Man 'Father'" at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on St. John on January 18. The ten-part Tuesday series is designed to give Catholics tools and skills with which to defend the doctrines of the church.

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.

Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday 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 prescribed for Good Friday and 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, February 25, 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 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 12:10 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., at Holy Family Church at 6:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church at 6:30 p.m., and at St. Anne Chapel at 7:00 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 p.m., 4:00 p.m. (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 a.m., 8:00 a.m., noon and 7:00 p.m.

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.

LITURGY WORKSHOP ON LENT AND HOLY WEEK

Eucharistic ministers, lectors, ushers, sacristans, music ministers and all others involved in liturgy on St. Thomas and St. John are invited to attend a Lenten Liturgy Workshop led by Bishop George Murry, S.J.

"The conference will look at the historical development and theological significance of Holy Week," Bishop Murry told *The Catholic Islander*. "How do we move from Passion Sunday to Easter, how do we pass through the death of Christ to his resurrection? We will look at how the liturgies of Holy Week capture this rhythm and explore ways that a parish can relay this more effectively."

The workshop will be held at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on St. John on Wednesday, February 2, at 7:00 p.m. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions.

LENTEN MISSIONS

On St. John, Fr. Jesus Bohorquez of Miami will lead a Spanish Lenten Mission in various homes on February 10-12, with a closing Mass at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on Sunday, February 13, at 5:00 p.m. Fr. Dwight Merrick of Trinidad will lead an English Lenten Mission at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on February 23-25 at 7:00 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.

St. Thomas

Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral (English) 5:30 p.m.
(Spanish) 7:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church 6:30 p.m.
St. Anne Chapel 7:00 p.m.

St. Croix

Holy Cross Church 7:00 p.m.
Sacred Heart Chapel (in Spanish) 6:30 p.m.
St. Ann Church 5:30 p.m.
St. Joseph Church 6:30 p.m.
St. Patrick Church 7:00 p.m.

St. John

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church 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 ayuno y abstinencia. 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 haremos otros actos de abnegación durante la Cuaresma.

EL MIÉRCOLES DE CENIZAS ES EL 9 DE FEBRERO

En Sto. Tomás, se puede recibir cenizas en la Catedral de San Pedro y San Pablo a las 7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m., 5:30 p.m. y 7:00 p.m., en la Iglesia Holy Family a las 6:30 a.m. y 7:30 p.m., en la Iglesia Nuestra Señora de Perpetuo Socorro a las 6:30 p.m., y en la Capilla Sta. Ana a las 7:00 p.m.

En Sta. Cruz, se puede recibir cenizas en el Herbert Grigg Home for the Aged a las 10:30 a.m., en La Iglesia Holy Cross a las 8:15 a.m., mediodía y 6:00 p.m., en la Iglesia Sta. Ana a las 6:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m., 4:00 p.m. (servicio para niños) y 7:00 p.m., en la Iglesia San José a las 7:00 a.m. y 7:00 p.m., y en la Iglesia San Patricio a las 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m., mediodía y 7:00 p.m.

En St. John, se puede recibir cenizas en la Iglesia Nuestra Señora del Carmen a las 8:30 a.m. y 7:00 p.m.

VÍA CRUCIS

La Vía Crucis se orará en español en Sta. Cruz los viernes de cuaresma at las 6:30 p.m. fuera de la Iglesia San José y en la Capilla Sagrada Corazón.

En Sto. 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.

MISIÓN DE CUARESMA

El P. Jesus Bohorquez de Miami predicará una misión cuaresmal en español en las casas de feligreses de la Iglesia Nuestra Señora del Carmen en St. John el 10-12 de febrero a las 7:00 p.m. La misión terminará con Misa de clausura en la iglesia el domingo, 13 de febrero, a las 5:00 p.m.

CLASES DE CATECISMO PARA ADULTOS

Clases de catecismo en español para adultos pronto comenzaran después de la Misa en español los martes en el Catedral San Pedro y San Pablo en Sto. Tomás. José Cossio dará las charlas a los que quieran aprender más sobre la fe católica.

LA GRABACIÓN DE PROGRAMAS

Se invita a los jóvenes católicos para que se unan al grupo existente para la grabación de programas de radio y televisión en español. Favor de hablar con el P. John Mark.

NUESTRA SEÑORA DE ALTAGRACIA, PATRONA DE LA REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA

Dominicanos en las Islas Vírgines celebraron su fiesta patronal de Nuestra Señora de Altagracia con Misas y recepciones con comidas típicas en tres parroquias. En Sta. Cruz, se celebró en su propia fecha en la Iglesia San José el 21 de enero. En Sto. Tomás, se celebró en la Catedral de San Pedro y San Pablo el siguiente domingo, 23 de enero. En St. John, se celebró en la Iglesia Nuestra Señora del Carmen el 23 de enero.



La imagen de Nuestra Señora de Altagracia se quedó en frente del altar cuando el P. Cecil Corneille celebró la Misa en la Iglesia San José en Sta. Cruz.



La imagen de Nuestra Señora de Altagracia está al lado del Diácono José Vázquez en la Catedral San Pedro y San Pablo en Sto. Tomás.

YOUTH GROUP MEMBERS REUNITE

Former members of the St. Patrick Church Youth Group (1990-2004) reunited for two weeks of activities on St. Croix. The youth group members visited the sick at Juan F. Luis Hospital, the Herbert Grigg Home and Whim Home for the Aged. They also had sporting events, a Singspiration, a Mass of Thanksgiving, and an Appreciation Banquet. The Youth Group and the adult advisors planned this event for over a year.



The reunited members of the St. Patrick Church Youth Group presented a plaque of appreciation to Very Rev. Kenneth Gaddy, CSSR, Pastor of St. Patrick Church on St. Croix

THE 2005 REGIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE

Catholic youth and youth ministers attended the Regional Catholic Youth Conference (RCYC) at Holy Family Church's Columban Hall on St. Thomas on January 21-23.

The Most Rev. Vincent Darius, Bishop of St. George (Grenada), and Corinne Francis, Vice President for Missions at St. James Mercy Hospital in Hornell, New York, were the guest speakers.

The conference's theme was "Proud to be Catholic — Uncovering the Pearl of Great Price."



Left to right, Bishop Darius, Rev. Dr. George Franklin and Bishop Elliott Thomas concelebrated the Mass for the participants of the 2005 Regional Catholic Youth Conference.



Susan Eversley (forefront) was among the facilitators during the youth rally at Emancipation Garden on January 22.

FUNERAL FOR A PILLAR OF THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



Left to right, Fr. John McLoughlin, CSsR (partially hidden), Fr. Michael Houston, CSsR, Fr. Pat Lynch, CSsR, Deacon Ulric Benjamin, and Msgr. Michael Kosak were present at a Mass of Resurrection for Annie Barry at Holy Cross Church on December 8.

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY CELEBRATIONS

Hundreds of parishioners and friends gathered for fun at Holy Family Church on St. Thomas and St. Ann Church on St. Croix on Martin Luther King Day, January 17.

At both parishes, Mass started the day, followed by sports, games, food and music.

Children were not allowed at Holy Family Church's Fun Day. According to Rev. Dr. George Franklin, Pastor, this was a day for adults to be free to be children again. At the parish's Columban Hall, games were placed on all the tables, and the adults were invited to move from table to table. An open microphone allowed all to be a part of the entertainment, and plenty of food was to be enjoyed.

At St. Ann Church, children and teenagers went to the basketball court or the video games, and adults to their dominoes, card games and Scrabble. The Master of Ceremonies, Deacon Arnold Helenese, led the karaoke. Msgr. Michael Kosak, Pastor, sang, and Fr. Louis Kemayou, Parochial Vicar, sang and joined in the Electric Slide.

On St. John, Fr. Charles Crespo was the Master of Ceremonies at a Martin Luther King Day of Remembrance at Franklin A. Powell, Sr. Park. Over 100 people attended the two-hour program which included presentations by children, politicians, community leaders and many singers. The program was sponsored by the St. John Interfaith Coalition.



Left, Msgr. Michael Kosak, Pastor of St. Ann Church on St. Croix, with Eeyore, who gave many children donkey rides.

Above, Fr. Charles Crespo, Pastor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, emceed the Martin Luther King Day of Remembrance program at Franklin A. Powell, Sr. Park on St. John.

FORMER VI PRIEST WRITES FROM TSUNAMI AREA



Redemptorist Father Eric Hoog, LT, CHC, USNR, is pictured with First Lieutenant Laura Champagne, a fellow member of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit/Special Operations Capable (15th MEU/SOC).

The carrier USS Bonhomme-Richard shipped out December 6, 2004, heading for the Persian Gulf. The troops were on a six-month deployment. Then came the catastrophic earthquake and tsunami in the Indian Ocean on December 26. The ship was diverted to Sumatra to help in the massive recovery effort.

Lieutenant Eric Hoog, CHC, USNR, was on board. The former pastor of St. Patrick Church on St. Croix serves as chaplain to the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit/Special Operations Capable, based in Camp Pendleton, CA. As such, he is responsible for the pastoral care of 5,000 personnel of various denominations and faiths.

Fr. Hoog has been selected for promotion to the rank of Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) in the U.S. Navy. The rank is equivalent to that of a Major in the Army, Marine Corps and Air Force. Fr. Hoog will actually pin on the rank of LCMR in April 2005.

This is Fr. Hoog's experience. He wrote the following report on January 21. Because the Indonesian government was restrictive of the number of personnel on the ground on any given day, he was able to go ashore only once up to that point.

"I flew off the USS Bonhomme-Richard on January 15 as part of a working party. The 15th MEU (SOC) Commanding Officer (CO), Colonel Thomas Greenwood, USMC, was the lead member of this group. We flew to a beach landing zone that was in the town of Meulaboh, south along the coastline from the larger city of Banda Aceh on the island of Sumatra. Meulaboh lost about 25,000 people or more in the tsunami.

"The first impression was one of an eerie quiet and of utter destruction. We started cleaning up debris. Surrounding us at the beach were the mute remnants of buildings that were part of a school complex and of people's homes. Many children and teenagers lost their lives here by being swept out to sea. For all of the Marines in our working party, this area had a sense of the sacred to it, for this beach and the immediate ocean beyond was truly a burial ground. Bodies would daily wash up on the shoreline.

"I went with our CO to the hospital. As we drove inward from the beach toward the hospital, there was destruction on both sides of the road. It looked as though a giant had walked through and stepped on every house and every business. The smell in the air was of decay and debris being burned. Many bodies were still buried under the mounds of rubble.

"At the hospital, the two Navy and Marine dentists traveling as part of our group set up shop in the hospital clinic. Because the hospital was a few miles inland, it was not hit by the tsunami. There was some minimal damage to the building. The dentists and the corpsmen opened for business and families started to trickle in.

"I met the medical corps of the Singaporean Army assisting at the hospital. One of the Singapore Army doctors is Catholic and goes to our Redemptorist church in Singapore called the "Novena Church." We talked for a while about the conditions in the town of Meulaboh.

"We headed back to the beach site. The Landing Craft Air Cushioneds (LCACs) was unloaded of boxes of food, water, lumber and plastic sheeting. Distribution of these goods was about to happen. The people had lined up now and the Indonesian Army began to hand out these items. That afternoon we unloaded some more equipment for the United Nations and then boarded a helo for our flight back to the ship.

"All of us have sights etched in our memories. Please thank your friends and parishioners for their contributions. It will be a long time before these people fully recover."

FRATERNITY OF PRIESTS PRAYS TOGETHER

The Fraternity of Priests is an international fellowship of priests committed to prayer and fellowship together. Pictured left to right, Fr. John Mark, Very. Rev. Neil Scantlebury and Fr. Charles Crespo meet at the Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral rectory on St. Thomas every Tuesday for community prayer.



FOUR LEGIONS OF MARY PRAY TOGETHER



The Legion of Mary is an international group of Catholics sharing a Marian spirituality. Four Legions of Mary from St. Thomas and St. John met for prayer, business and a social at St. Anne Chapel's Club House on St. Thomas on December 12.

ALPHA LEADERSHIP TEAM PRAYS TOGETHER



Alpha is a ten-session evangelization program centered around pre-recorded talks on video and a community supper. The St. Thomas leadership meets at Holy Family Church's Columban Hall on St. Thomas to pray and plan. Pictured left to right, they are Calista Julien, Maria Griffin, Eleanor Querrard, Noreen Bryan, Wilfredo Acosta, Cynthia Smith, Irene Acosta, Odette Andrews, Susanna Brin and Kathleen Thompson.

The Pride of Our Parishes



Willie Hanson painted lines on the steps to the offices of St. Ann Church on St. Croix.



Any Saturday morning, you will find Hughette Jacques sweeping and doing many chores on at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church on St. Thomas.

*Who are the pride of your parish?
E-mail action photographs only
(no portraits) to
editor@catholicislander.com.*

ST. JOHN CHURCH INSTALLS NEW DOORS AND WINDOWS



New mahogany-framed doors and windows were installed and new chairs were set up in December at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on St. John, bringing the community closer to its as-yet-unannounced dedication date. Starting with a quiet opening on Christmas Eve, the congregation began meeting in the new church for weekend and holy day Masses. Masses and meetings on Monday through Friday continue to take place in the adjacent social hall while construction crews continue working in the main church.

Botti Studio of Architectural Arts, Inc.

Established in 1864, Botti Studio serves the ecclesiastic environment through design, fabrication, delivery and installation. Experts in restoration and conservation, Botti professionals are available for consultation.



Sanctuary Window, Cathedral of St. Francis Xavier, Nassau, Bahamas

Caribbean projects completed or in progress:

Sacred Heart Church, Mount Horeb Baptist
Community Church - Nassau, Bahamas
St. Peter & Paul Cathedral - USVI
St. Catherine of Siena Church - Eleuthera

PO Box CB13019, Nassau, Bahamas
Phone/Fax: 1-242-341-4600
www.bottistudio.com

ST. THOMAS CALENDAR

OUR LADY OF FATIMA DEVOTION

The Children of Mary lead a devotion to Our Lady of Fatima at Holy Family Church on February 5 and the first Saturday of each month at 4:00 p.m.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The Holy Family Chapter meet at Holy Family Church on February 15 and the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

SECULAR FRANCISCANS

The Lady Clare of Assisi Fraternity meets at Holy Family Church on February 19 and the third Saturday of each month at 1:00 p.m.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF AMERICA

Court 2049 meets at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral's Hospitality Lounge on February 19 and the third Saturday of each month at 2:00 p.m.

PRIESTS HONORED

The Barbados Association of St. Thomas and St. John will honor Very Rev. Neil Scantlebury at its annual dinner dance at the Palms Court Harbour View Hotel on Saturday, February 19, at 7:00 p.m.

The African Association of St. Thomas-St. John will honor Msgr. Jerome Feudjio at its first-ever Humanitarian Awards Gala at Frenchman's Reef Hotel on Saturday, February 19, at 7:30 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.

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.

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.

EVENINGS OF CHARISMATIC PRAYER

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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION/HOLY HOURS

Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral presents a Holy Hour with Exposition and Benediction on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.

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

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

ST. JOHN CALENDAR

BIBLE CLASSES

The Mt. Carmel College of Evangelization offers classes on the book of Genesis at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on Mondays at 7:00 p.m.

CATHOLIC APOLOGETICS

Learn skills to defend your faith at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. Fr. William Montgomery will teach on "The Pope and Apostolic Succession" on February 1. Rev. Dr. George Franklin will teach on "Confession" on February 8. Bishop George Murry, SJ, will teach on "The Communion of Saints" on February 15. Fr. Dwight Merrick of Trinidad will teach on "Purgatory" on February 22.

BREAKFAST WITH THE PASTOR

A pot luck breakfast will be held at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on February 3 and all First Fridays after the 7:00 a.m. Mass.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS AND HOLY HOUR

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 February 3 and all First Fridays. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available.

MINISTRY LEADERS CONFERENCE

Fr. Dwight Merrick of Trinidad will lead a Leaders Conference at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on February 26 at 10:30 a.m.

EVENINGS OF CHARISMATIC PRAYER

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

LEGION OF MARY

Praesidium 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
December 25, 2004*

"Dear children! With great joy, also today I carry my Son Jesus in my arms to you; He blesses you and calls you to peace. Pray, little children, and be courageous witnesses of Good News in every situation. Only in this way will God bless you and give you everything you ask of Him in faith. I am with you as long as the Almighty permits me. I intercede for each of you with great love. Thank you for having responded to my call."

Courtesy of Claire & John Foster

**Great Quality and Fast Service
and on 1-4 four color printing**

See our Website for Information & Prices
www.islandimages.vi

Island Images, Inc.

Tel 778-8690 • Fax 773-6898

Serving St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix since 1984

 **CONTINUUM CARE, INC.**

Hospice of St. Croix, St. Thomas, St. John

We provide care to the terminally ill.

*Individualized Medical and Nursing Support, Spiritual,
Emotional, Nutritional Counseling, and Personal Care.*

St. Croix 772-CARE (2273)

St. Thomas – St. John 714-CARE (2273)

www.ccivi.com S ContinuumCare@attglobal.net

Medicare Certified. Most Insurance Accepted. EEOC.

Se Habla Español



340-778-LIMO (5466)

All Occasions ♦ Airport Service ♦ Casino Service ♦ Island Tours

Catherine Willey Rowe
Richard Rowe

P.O. Box 4640, St. Croix, VI 00851
Inside Southerland Tours, Gallows Bay

**WHY JOIN THE
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS?**

Imagine being part of an organization that fills your heart and your mind with the joy of giving to others and the feeling that comes with making a difference.

Knights are Catholic men, 18 years of age and older, who are committed to making their community a better place, while enhancing their own faith, and protecting and enhancing their family life.

The Knights of Columbus also sponsor the Columbian Squires, a service and leadership training organization for Catholic young men 10 to 18 years old.

Interested in becoming a Knight?

Call Grand Knight, Anthony Francis 775-3537

(STT), Grand Knight, Arnold Golden 778-8380

*(STX) or District Deputy, Edward Cave
772-3747/778-2386.*



Tel: (340) 778-9775

**NEW
LOCATION**

*Basin Triangle, St. Croix
Next to the police station.
Great parking!*

Fax: (340) 778-8696

**Buying, Selling, or Renting?
Call the Experts!**



*Providing Efficient, Friendly
and Professional Service
for over 18 years*

*Toll Free (800) 778-8798
email: communications@sunrealty.vi
website: www.sunrealty.vi
and Hospital Road, Christiansburg
Call today! (340) 773-8790*

SUN REALTY
Investments of St. Croix

ST. CROIX CALENDAR

HOLY HOURS

Holy Cross Church will have a Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction on February 4 and all First Fridays at 9:00 a.m.

St. Joseph Church will have a bilingual Holy Hour on February 4 and all First Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

HEALING MASS

St. Patrick Church will host a healing Mass on February 4 and all First Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

SANTO NIÑO DEVOTION/RECONCILIATION

Devotions to El Santo Niño at St. Joseph Church are on February 5 and all First Saturdays at 4:30 p.m. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated at the same time. A Vigil Mass follows.

AUCTION AND DINNER

St. Mary School on St. Croix will hold its annual fundraising auction at the Divi Carina Bay Ballroom on Saturday, February 5. Cocktails will be served at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 7:00 p.m.

SECULAR FRANCISCANS

The Our Lady of the Angels Fraternity meets at the Franciscan House on February 13 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 February 18 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 February 23 and the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

ST. LUCIA INDEPENDENCE DAY CREOLE MASS

St. Ann Church will celebrate St. Lucia's Independence Day with a bilingual English/French Creole Mass on Sunday, February 27, at 9:30 a.m.

SECULAR ORDER DISCALCED CARMELITES

Secular Order Discalced Carmelites meet February 27 and every fourth Sunday at St. Ann Church at 1:00 p.m.

LEGION OF MARY

Præsidium 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. Meetings are in Spanish.

NEO-CATECHUMENAL WAY

The Neo-Catechumenal Way has catechesis for youth and adults at St. Joseph Church on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays at 7:00 p.m. and at Holy Cross Church on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 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.

MISS ST. JOSEPH IN THREE KINGS DAY PARADE



Miss St. Joseph, also known as St. Joseph High School senior Eliana Schuster, was featured in the Crucian Christmas Festival Parade in observation of Three Kings Day on January 7.

DIOCESE OF ST. THOMAS IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

LENT 2005 PARISH SCHEDULES

ST. THOMAS

Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral

Ash Wednesday Masses are on February 9 at 7:00 and 8:30 a.m. (School Mass), 12:15, 5:30 and 7:00 p.m. (Spanish).

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.

St. Anne Chapel

Ashes will be distributed at Mass on February 9 at 7:00 p.m.

Mass will be added to the weekday schedule for Mondays at 7:00 p.m.

Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction will be on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m., followed by Mass.

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

Holy Family Church

Ashes will be distributed on February 9 at 6:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

Ashes will be distributed at Mass on February 9 at 6:30 p.m.

Stations of the Cross will be prayed on Fridays at 6:30 p.m., followed by a brief period of Eucharistic adoration and Mass at 7:30 p.m.

ST. JOHN

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church

Ash Wednesday Masses will be on February 9 at 8:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Stations of the Cross will be prayed on Fridays at 7:00 p.m. followed by Mass. On First Friday, March 4, Mass will be at 7:00 p.m., followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.

Fr. Jesus Bohorquez of Miami will lead a Spanish mission in various homes on February 10-12, with a closing Mass on Sunday, February 13, at 5:00 p.m.

Fr. Dwight Merrick of Trinidad will lead an English Mission on February 23-25 at 7:00 p.m.

ST. CROIX

Holy Cross Church

Ashes will be distributed on February 9 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 4 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 6:30 p.m.

St. Ann Church

Ash Wednesday Masses will be on February 9 at 6:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.; a children's service will be at 4:00 p.m.

Mass will be celebrated twice on Fridays at 6:30 a.m. and 6:00 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.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

Stations of the Cross will be prayed on Fridays at 5:30 p.m.

St. Joseph Church

Ash Wednesday Masses will be on February 9 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 on Fridays at 6:30 p.m. Stations in English inside the church. The Via Crucis in Spanish will be prayed in procession outdoors on the church and school grounds, pending good weather. In bad weather, the two groups will combine for a bilingual procession inside the church.

St. Patrick Church

Ashes will be distributed on February 9 at 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m., Noon and 7:00 p.m.

A 6:30 a.m. Mass has been added to the Monday through Friday schedule.

Stations of the Cross will be prayed on Fridays at 7:00 p.m., followed by exposition and benediction.

The parish's Patronal Feast will be celebrated on Sunday, March 13, at the 10:00 a.m. Mass, followed by a parade through Frederiksted led by the Community Band, St. Patrick drill team, St. Patrick School students and parish organizations. Following the parade, the Men's Fellowship will serve brunch in St. Gerard Hall. Tickets are \$10.

Fr. Carlyle Blake, CSsR, will lead a Lenten Mission on March 14-18.