

Connections

The Newsletter of Immaculate Conception Parish

November 2000

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Get to know a little bit more about our Pastor.

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Providing an essential ministry of the Church: Parish Health.

The Friendly Visitor Program

Friendship grows within this Innovative Vocation

The Parish Picnic

The Catholic Community came together for a church picnic in September.

News for the Pews

News about and for the Parish of Immaculate Conception

Contact Information

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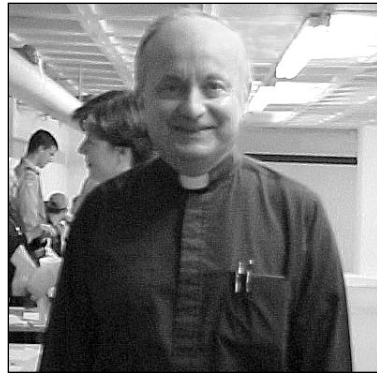
Fax 436-8848

Pastor
Father Edward Kelley Ext. 7

Deacon Charles
Schladenhauffen Ext. 5

Pastoral Assistant
Gayl Callis Ext. 9

Temporary Secretary
Janice Ferguson Ext. 6



Interview with Father Edward Kelley

We conducted a wide-ranging interview with Fr. Kelley to give fellow parishioners some background on our pastor and to satisfy our own curiosity. To best use limited space, subjects have been grouped together by topic, questions eliminated, and as much of his own words used as possible with some background information added.

By Richard J. Dumler, Parishioner & Reporter at Large

HIS EARLY LIFE

Father Kelley, born in 1940, grew up in Boston (West Roxbury) and is one of two children, "both in the same business". His brother, who is three years younger is also a priest. "I can never remember not wanting to be a priest; I think I played being a priest when I was young. My parents weren't overly religious; we were a typical family of our era. We didn't have shrines at home, but we prayed together daily. I never went to Catholic school before the Seminary." Father Kelley was ordained in 1966, and "went immediately into inner city ministry" in Boston, at Columbia Point and later Charlestown, for six years. "I like urban ministry, though Portsmouth is much different" from these locations.

HIS NAVY YEARS

"I was always interested in the ocean; I have a nautical gene someplace, but I can't figure out from where. Boston had a long tradition of sending priests to the Navy. I have the dubious distinction of having served a longer period at sea than any Navy chaplain in the history of the U.S. Navy." During the Iran hostage crisis, the carrier Eisenhower was at sea 95 days, in port for 3, and then at sea for 154 more days! "I enjoyed the Navy. If I hadn't been a priest, I think I would have enjoyed driving a ship-yes." Father Kelley retired from the Navy in 1995 after 23 years with the rank of Captain.

ON HIMSELF AS A PRIEST:

"People who become priests have a calling toward service of their fellow man, of serving the Lord in this direct manner" by bringing His message to them. "Being in a parish is similar to being on duty in the military – always conscious of living

the priestly role as advisor and confessor.

It doesn't work to be buddy-buddy, but it is nice to be invited to be part of parish family religious celebrations and holidays. There was never a time when I wished I wasn't a priest. A recent survey of American priests found that over 90% would (also) be priests again!"

HOBBIES, IF HE HAD TIME

"Not golf. The golfing priest is a myth today. I love to travel. Southeast Asia is my favorite part of the world, perhaps because of the relationship I developed with many Philipinos in the service." "Sailing!!" Father Kelley sailed competitively in high school and Seminary. "My 1964 Volkswagen Bug was a gift in 1964 from my father. I drive it only on warm, dry days. It's only got 51,000 miles."

THE CHURCH & PORTSMOUTH

"What I like about parish ministry is the fact that you never know what will happen next. I appreciate the efforts of many and the support, both financial and otherwise, to extend the reach of the parish and its mission. Our parish is quite elderly (over 40% are over 64 years of age), but many only attend Mass. I would hope that we could draw them more into the activities of the parish, to use their time and talents (for the Church's mission.) As younger, more affluent people settle in Portsmouth, our challenge is to help them understand that they need a spiritual framework in their lives, not just the materialistic. If I could change one thing, it would be to make more people feel that they have a ministerial role and responsibility for the Church and its mission, that it is their Church (and parish), not my (Fr. Kelley's) Church."

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Immaculate Conception Organizations

— PARISH NURSES —



From Left to Right: Back Row: Pat Wise and Nancy Davis;
Front Row: Joan Nickell and Ann Hett

The rectory basement is getting busier, especially on the first Wednesday of every month when four registered nurses gather from 9:30-11:30 to serve the Immaculate Conception community. Parish Nurses are committed to providing an essential but neglected ministry of the Church: parish health.

The Parish Nurse Program, which is a national movement is premised on the belief that a healing ministry is at the heart of the mission of Christ. Our faith feeds us in many ways; it brings comfort and respite, it helps us understand the misfortunes of our lives. Our faith makes us well in spirit. But Christ, the source of all healing, healed the whole person. That is what Parish Nurse Program is committed to doing. It brings the spirit of healing in all of its dimensions to the parishes it serves.

Parish Health Ministries are on the forefront of some of the most innovative and progressive practices in medicine today. A health ministry assumes first and foremost that the body and the spirit are intimately linked. Parish Nurses know that the body functions best when the spirit feels hope, faith, and love. They understand the necessity of wellness in building meaningful, purposeful lives in a parish community. And they recognize that wellness, and not disease, should be the focus of medical care. Unfortunately, that is an attitude not often shared in more traditional medical practices.

The Parish Nursing program is a tremendous addition to an already growing I.C.C. outreach ministry. Parish Nurses offer education about healthy living, diet, and the relationship between faith and wellness. They work as facilitators, recruiting and training volunteers. Parish Nurses have access to and information about an extensive network of people and organizations in the Seacoast area. They can help refer specific agencies or individuals who offer programs or can provide needed assistance.

Perhaps most important, Parish Nurses act as personal health counselors. They talk with people about their health, visit the sick and help parishioners navigate the complex medical care system. And they provide the necessary individual attention and compassion that feeds the soul even as they tend the needs of the body.

If you have any questions about medical care or health related issues, or if you just want to have your blood pressure checked, please call Joan Nickell at 436-7963 or Ann Hett at 436-2929 or Pat Wise at 433-0931. They provide a ministry we can all benefit from.

Written by Reporter/Parishioner: Ronald King

Immaculate Conception Organizations

Why I am a FRIENDLY VISITOR.

One of my New Year's resolutions for 2000 was to devote some time to helping some people less fortunate than myself. I had just recently gotten married and started a great new job. Life was going really well and I felt fortunate. So when I saw the notice in the Immaculate Conception Church bulletin looking for Friendly Visitors, I called to get some information.

I was kind of nervous when I made the first call. After all, it had been years since I'd had any regular contact with the elderly. Both of my grandmothers passed away over 10 years ago, and I never even knew my grandfathers, as they had both died before I was born. Nevertheless, I did feel drawn to this important vocation in the parish. Both of my grandmothers died in nursing homes, and our family visited them often.

Fortunately, the Friendly Visitor Program at Immaculate Conception provided all the help and support I needed to get over my fears. I received a call from Gayl Callis, coordinator of the Friendly Visitor Program, informing me that there would be a no-obligation, full-day's training session on the Program. Perfect, I thought. If it doesn't seem right for me I won't have to commit.

The Program was interesting, informative and fun. I knew within the first 15 minutes that it was a good fit for me. Friendly Visitors were on hand to share their experiences and to discuss with us the ups and downs of the commitment. We engaged in role playing which attempted to sharpen our active listening skills. This was difficult for people like myself who were often concerned with "saying just the right thing." We learned that what the people we'd be visiting need most is a dependable friend.

Once the training was completed, I was matched with the person I would visit weekly. The commitment to the program requires that a week visit with the elderly person with whom you are matched. The person typically is "homebound" and usually has few friends or family. Some are in nursing homes, others live independently. All are in need of regular, consistent company. At first the visits seemed forced, sometimes even uncomfortable. But like any relationship, in time the comfort level increased and the friendship soon blossomed.

During the training one of the experienced Friendly Visitors said, "I got much more out of our relationship than the person I visit with." Almost a year later, I now know what she means. By setting out to help someone, I have myself gained a friend - someone whose face lights up when I walk into the room and who is happy to just sit and talk with me for an hour a week. These days, that's a rare gift.

Written by Reporter/Parishioner: Donna Marsh

For more information on the Friendly Visitor Program, call Gayl Callis at 436-0048, ext. 9.



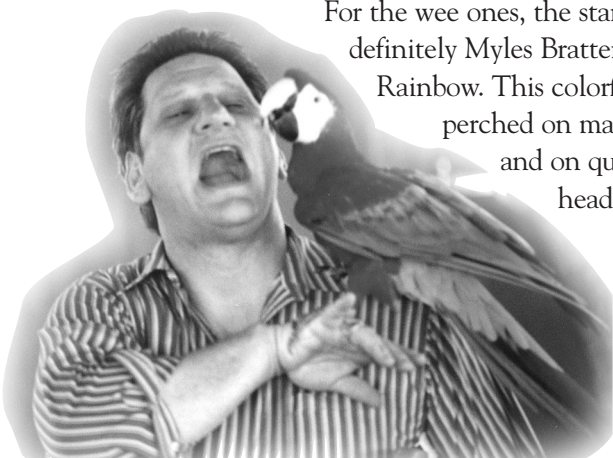
On Sunday, September 10, Jamaica Island at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard was definitely the place to be!

The food was delicious, the weather was gorgeous, and the company couldn't be beat! On Sunday, September 10, Jamaica Island at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard was definitely the place to be!

About 100 parishioners joined Father Kelley for a picnic under the Shipyard's covered pavilion by the sea. Master chefs Mike Cocchiaro, Mike Bilodeau, and Keith Smith manned the grills and kept us supplied with hamburgers and hot dogs. Myles Bratter tickled our taste buds with his scintillating chili and hearty baked beans. Mike Bilodeau provided a delectable potato salad, and Suzanne King's brownies went like hot cakes.

It was a child's paradise as kids jumped in the Moon Walk, and played games organized by Barry Foley. Children scoured the area as they raced to complete the scavenger hunt. There were also magic tricks, croquet, and good old volleyball.

For the wee ones, the star of the day was definitely Myles Bratter's macaw, Rainbow. This colorful bird patiently perched on many little arms, and on quite a few little heads as well!



Adults enjoyed the good food and fellowship, and the great music provided by Tom and Bridget Barker.

Many thanks to Suzanne King and the Parish Life Committee for organizing this event, and to all who contributed their time and talent.



Photos Courtesy of Glen and Kate Gordon
Written by Kate Gordon

Immaculate Conception Parish
 to the Events and Goings on of
Connections
 Here's Your
 98 Summer Street
 Portsmouth, NH 03801-4398

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NEWS FOR THE PEWS

*Tidbits about
What's going on in
your parish this quarter!*

Stained Glass Window Update

The four stained glass windows on the right side of the Church closest to the Saint Joseph's altar are still in jeopardy as we await their repair. They are:

- 1) The Coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven,
 - 2) The Marriage Feast of Cana,
 - 3) The Rising of Lazarus, and
 - 4) Jesus Gives Saint Peter the Keys to the Kingdom of Heaven.
- When this was written, "The Apparition of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to Saint Margaret" window was out for refurbishing.

200 CLUB WINNERS

**Grand drawing to be held 10/29 with \$2,000 in prizes!
\$100 Winners:**

1st Quarter	Martin Hegarty
2nd Quarter	Joyce Miller
3rd Quarter	June Waugh

A complete list of winners is available upon request.

Any information you would like included in "News for the Pews" should be forwarded to the Parish secretary (436-0048 ext. 6 / fax 436-8848).

Parish Sacraments

The following Sacraments were administered in our Parish during the year of our Lord 2000

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION May 7, 2000

Barker, Tim
Barnes, Alyx
Buyak, Michael
Connelly, Isabella
Crobak, Derek
Cronin, Leigh
Cuttle, Jay
D'Orazio, Andrew
Dwyer, Kevin
Fournier, Jacob
Howard, Rina
Hussey, Cody
Lachapelle, Mary
Maio, Alecia Marie
McCole, Shaylagh
Norton, Cassandra
Park, Christina
Rigazio, Alyssa
Smith, Brandon
Spiller, Summer
Stewart, Amy
Sullivan, Sophia
Trefethen, Glen
Ward, Sarah

BAPTISMS

Broom, Jill Marie
Brown, Jacob Ezra
Coate, Benjamin Francis
Collins, Nevan Coogan
Collins, Sean Fitzgerald
Colliton, McGill Christopher
Conner, William Pierce
Dwyer, Deidre Anne
Fales, Lindsey Elizabeth
Finneral, Jack Thomas
Folley, Amanda Ruth
Frizzle, Marisa Rose
Hett, Jared Michael
King, Dylan Carey
Lancaster, Ryan Thomas
Lillis, Nicholas
Macomber, Andrew Hiatt
Moulton, Emma Caroline
Paterson, Lauren Olivia
Reardon, Eilis Westhrin
Rudzingka, Matthew Paul
Sanford, Caden Matthew
Sorge, Gavin Michael
Spezzano, Nicholas Vincenzo
Sullivan, Amelia, Fay
Walsh, Anya Rochelle

FUNERALS

Patricia Olga Polson
Carl Bowden
Thomas A. Burns
Enes F. Bazzocchi
Dorothy A. McIntire
Joseph E. Daneault
Francis H. Robb
Lionel Cormier
Mary J. Amoroso
Normand Larrivee
Mary Althea Cullen
Gertrude M. Rafferty
Peter P. Bubelis
Cornelius F. Hobbs, Sr.
Thomas B. McCabe
Donald J. L'Italian
Dorothy C. Aubertine
Isaac Hamilton Simpson
Gilberte "Betty" C. Michaud
Mary N. Morin
James H. Page, Sr.
Olivia F. Sibson
Joseph Walter Saurman
Eleanor Theresa Kelliher
John Tarbell McDonough
Mary "Dot" Dorothy McCaffery
Joseph Francis Marconi
Roger A. Lavigne
Ethel "Joni" Small-Moreau
Theresa Marion McMaster

We ask God's perpetual light to shine upon all the souls who have departed this world.

CONFIRMATION May 9, 2000

Bergeron, Brian
Briolat, Randall
Ferguson, Kane
Flynn, Ian
Gamester, Colby
Gilkey, JoAnna
Hehre, Christina
Lonergan, Ryan
Loughlin, Conall
Maloney, Kelly
Skrabal, Joseph
Sullivan, Lauren
Varrell, Craig

MATRIMONY

Carol Clement & Francois Rolland
Christine Davidson & Charles Noon
Andrea Dean & Michael Young
Nora Benoit & Salvatore Llach
Alisa White & Timothy Karwowski
Heather Zoffoli & Fabio Cataldi
Kristen Senesac & Benjamin Ludwig
Maria Freiburger & Max Eisl
Mary Lewnard & Michael Moulton
Carolyn McCormack & James Neary
Kristen Hanley & Marc Syracuse
Annelise Connors & Richard Hartley
Allison Broderick & Jason Novak
Holly McCown & Emmet O'Gara
Anne Cotter & Thomas Ryan
Danielle Durand & J. Merrick Kelley
Tracey LaFrenier & Richard Tessier
Marianne Porter & Daniel Iannuzzo