

Connections

The Newsletter of Immaculate Conception Parish

February 2002



Participants from 2001 Seder Meal

Start Holy Week in a meaningful way

Start Holy Week in a meaningful way this year by attending the Parish's Seder Meal in the lower church on Palm Sunday, March 24, at 5 p.m. The Seder is a traditional Passover dinner which will consist of authentic food, songs, readings, and prayers, including a full lamb or beef dinner. Tim Lena and Ron King will be our hosts, leading us in songs and prayer.

In coming together to celebrate a Seder, we commemorate God's deliverance of the Jews out of Egypt. We also remember that Jesus was at a Seder when he celebrated His Last Supper and instituted the Eucharist.

Tickets will cost \$6 per person and will go on sale after masses in mid-March. Babysitting will also be available. For additional information, please call Kate Gordon at 431-8920. Don't miss this important Holy Week experience!

Contact Information

Phone 436-0048
Fax 436-8848
Pastor: Father Edward Kelley Ext. 7
Pastoral Minister Gayl Callis Ext. 9
Secretary Constance Keep Ext. 6

What Exactly is Stewardship? A Conscious Decision to Live a Life of Gratitude

Many Catholics wince when they hear the word stewardship. This is a reaction prompted by a mistaken notion that stewardship is just another way the Church asks for money. This is not true. Christian stewardship is the *commitment* made in response to God's generosity; to live a life of gratitude, to make daily decisions to give glory to God; and to share oneself and one's gifts generously as circumstances and



had parishioners commit their time and talent to our parish activities. Some parishioners did not respond because they thought our parish records already reflected their level of activity or because their situation or health no longer permits them to make a commitment.

If you have not filled out a new card, you will receive a letter asking you to do so even if you cannot now make a commitment of your time and talent. You are a valuable part of this parish and we need your input as we update our parish records.

In the end, stewardship comes down to personal decisions about how we live our lives and how we will respond to God's gifts based on our experience, self-knowledge and the call of God's grace.

Stewardship Committee: Gayl Callis, Richard Dummler, Janice Ferguson, Pat Lane, Joyce Miller, John O'Sullivan and Helen Steele.



talents allow.

The best way to respond to God's loving generosity is by reflecting that generosity day by day. Taking time for prayer. Nurturing relationships with family and friends. Participating in the worship life of the community of Christians. Acting out of loving concern on behalf of others in the world.

Last November, our Ministry Fair and Commitment Sunday emphasized the need to share our God-given gifts and your response was very encouraging! More than 300 families filled out new census and commitment cards; 254 of them



NEWS FROM THE

Immaculate Conception Women's Club

Our Parish's sesquicentennial (150th) year proved both a spiritual and busy year for the Immaculate Conception Women's Club. It was wonderful seeing old friends and acquaintances who returned to the area for some of the special events including both our "kickoff" and closing Masses. The dinner on December 8th, 2001 was simply divine. We hope that you enjoyed it as much as we did.

This year we will be coordinating the Lenten Soup Suppers. These were introduced last year and were quite a success despite the very snowy Fridays. As you will remember, on the Fridays in Lent, different groups of the Parish sponsored a light supper of soups, breads, and small desserts just prior to the Stations of the Cross.

(Donations will be gratefully accepted to defray costs; any monies collected over and above these costs will be designated for the St. Patrick School boiler.) The Friday suppers will be held this Lent, 5:30-7:00 p.m. in lower Church with Stations immediately following at 7 p.m. in the Main Church. Sponsorship will be as follows: Feb. 15 - Immaculate Conception Women's Club; Feb. 22 - Team of Greeters and Sacristans; March 1 -



Father Kelley receiving the Angel Fair Proceeds from IC Women's Club President Sandy Tobin.

team of Parish Nurses and Edgewood Volunteers; March 8 - Parish Life; March 15 - Eucharistic Ministers; and March 22 (night of the Live Stations - team of CCD Teachers and Volunteers. Please note that on Good Friday, March 29 there will be no soup supper, and the Stations will be replaced by a Good Friday service held in the main Church at 7 p.m.

Our Easter Bunny Breakfast will be held Saturday, March 16. This breakfast will feature delicious food such as: pancakes, French toast, sausage, ham, fruit salad, and buns. If his schedule permits, the Easter bunny will visit us. The children especially love this event! See bulletin for time, location, and price.

At our February meeting, President Sandy Tobin presented Father Kelley with an \$8,700 check for the proceeds of the Angel Fair, and Pearl and Bob Kennedy demonstrated stringing Rosary beads. They helped us each make our own set. We had quite a turnout and many laughs at our feeble attempts.

Our meetings are held at half past six on the third Wednesday of each month, usually in the Parish Meeting Room located in the cellar of the Rectory, please enter via Austin Street. Newcomers are always welcome!

Submitted by Janice Ferguson, IC Women's Club Secretary

Friendly Visitor Program



These days, many older folks have busy and active lives. But there are many less fortunate elderly men and women who, due to illness or old age, can't get out and socialize the way they once did.

If you know someone - perhaps a family member or a friend - who could benefit from a weekly visit, the Friendly Visitors Program of Immaculate Conception Church may be able to help. The Friendly Visitors Program was developed to reach out to elderly homebound community members in need of companionship and friendship.

Friendly Visitors provide one-on-one personalized visits to shut-ins in their own homes or apartments or to nursing home residents. The weekly visits are typically one hour in length. The times of the visits are decided upon mutually by the visitor and the person receiving the visit.

The visit is simply a social call. The role of the Friendly Visitor is to listen and chat, and share common interests (such as puzzles, knitting, reading, music). The interactions are strictly confidential, and each person who is visited agrees to the arrangement in advance. Visitors are matched by interests with those wishing to be visited.

Friendly Visitors are not service providers, and cannot administer medical advice or care. They cannot provide housekeeping or other such services. All visitors are members of Immaculate Conception Parish and are trained extensively for this important mission.

The Friendly Visitors of Immaculate Conception have brightened the lives of many elderly men and women in the Portsmouth area. If you know someone who might be interested in learning more about Friendly Visitors, contact Gayl Callis, Program Coordinator, at 603-436-0048.



YIPP Opening Event held Jan. 18, 2002

The YIPP (Youth in Portsmouth Planning team) sponsored their opening event on January 18, 2002. It was a fun night offering teens a chance to get together in a safe environment, with young people their own age, and with similar values.

For those who'd like to start a show-biz career, there was even the opportunity to be a star in their own commercial.



The movie selected was Jurassic Park III. The commercial guidelines

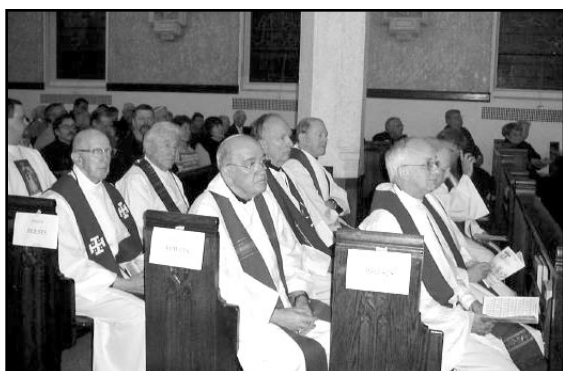
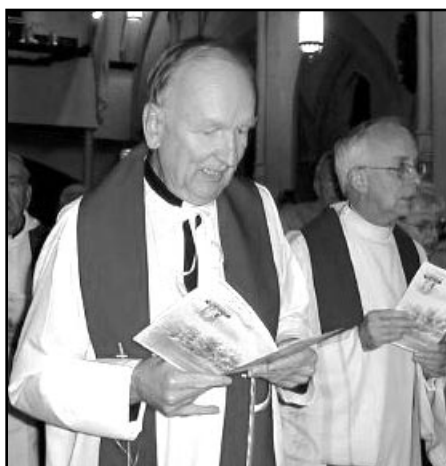
were to create a humorous yet informative advertisement for the following products: energy drink, soap, and canned soup or other food product. Vitamina-benjamin, an energy drink, had us in stitches. Some pizza donated by Steve's and The Portsmouth Pizza Factory, and some prizes by Express Video. The event began at 6:00 p.m. for those participating in the commercial making contest, and at 7:00 p.m. for everyone else. The event ended at 10:00 p.m.

It was such a success that plans for the next Youth in Portsmouth Planning team event are definitely being planned.



December 8, 2001

Closing Mass of the 150th Anniversary



Lenten Activities

Lent is traditionally a time for solitary reflection; but it is also a time for shared prayer and fellowship. The Parish is holding three group activities during Lent where together we can gain strength and understanding that we are not alone as we confront life's challenges.

Disciples in Mission involves small groups of parishioners in weekly meetings to listen to the coming Sunday's Scripture reading, gain insight into them from each other, and learn how we might better apply the word of God to our daily lives. Meetings will be held Sunday and Monday mornings and Monday through Thursday evenings.

The **Stations of the Cross** will be held every Friday during Lent at 7pm. The liturgies used in this service are varied and help us confront the mystery of Christ's shared humanity with us and His sacrifice for us on the road to Calvary. The Women's Club will also be organizing, each Friday at 6pm before Stations, the meatless **Soup Suppers** that were so popular last year. The soups and breads are really good! Families are encouraged to come and to stay for Stations. Please consider joining your friends in the Parish for one or all of these Lenten activities.

Here's Your

Connections

to the Events and Goings on of
Immaculate Conception Parish

Parish Fun Night Friday Feb. 8th 6:30-9:00 PM

Music (Open Mic - so bring your instruments, singing voices, poetry!) with Tim Lena, a Movie for the Kids and board games for all! Food will include Pizza, Munchies, Cookies, Juice and Soda. It's all Free, but sign up after masses on Feb. 2 and 3 so we can plan food quantities. For more information, call Kate Gordon at 431-8920.

New Parishioners

We have many new parishioners since our last newsletter.
Welcome to our Parish.

- Mark & Christine Aliquo
- David Anderson
- Scott & Patricia Andrews
- John Applegate
- Jeffrey & Sherri Beall
- Richard Bosa & Kathleen Taylor
- Patrick & Megan Burns
- Jennifer L. Cann
- Loretta Carney
- William & Ellen Cassell
- Mike & Doris Catalino
- Mary Ann Chiccarine
- Jeff & Shannon Critchlow
- Patricia Crothers
- Jose & Sheila Davis
- Donna R. Decker
- Kymberly Dyke
- Sally A. Eldredge
- Sheila Fabrizio
- Leonard Faucher
- Christopher Fennell
- Kelly Flannagan
- Linda C. Freeman
- Paul Gallagher
- John & Nancy Galligan
- Frank & Ingrid Getman
- Joseph Geiger
- Hank Gill
- Ann M. Goulet
- Holly Gress
- Judy Haley
- Ronny Halim
- John & Jennifer Henriquez
- Normand, Angelica & Michelle Houle
- Lisa Houle
- Ann Hoyt
- Grace F. Iannuzzo
- Robyn Jacques
- Charles & Eleanor Jumpre
- Joseph & Jean Kane
- Adam Channing Keith
- Andrew LaBell
- Christy Labrie
- Linda Lawry
- Elizabeth J. S. Ladia
- Michael LaNigra & Julie Abbott
- Michelle Londino
- Joseph Maldini
- Jayne Marcucci
- Brian McDermott & Kimberly Dyke
- Russell McKenna
- Shawn & Anna Mickelonis
- Michael & Lisa Miller
- Shawn P. Millerick
- Sylvia Nava
- James H. Nevin
- Carl J. Newburg
- John M. O'Connor
- James C. O'Sullivan, Jr.
- Marie Peleck
- Julio & Michelle Perez
- Shannon & Stephanie Pons
- Michael & Amy Quigley
- Lawrence R. Rallon, Jr.
- Tim Reinbold
- Carla R. Ronnquist
- Charles & Ava Saurman
- Tina Scarlotto
- Suzanne M. Scheil
- William J. Sexton
- George Soutiere
- Valerie M. Vuk
- Steven & Molly Wade
- Mary Lou Ward
- Philip & Karen Whistler

Parish Sacraments

The following Sacraments were administered in our Parish since 10/1/01.

BAPTISMS

Aidan Joseph Lena
Son of Tim & Rita Lena
Julia Elizabeth Miller
Daughter of Michael & Lisa Miller
Duncan Wilder Beall
Son of Jeffrey & Sherri Beall
Timothy John Cashman
Son of Timothy & Amy Cashman
Harper Margaret Marsh
Daughter of Norman & Donna Marsh
Margaret Clara Patterson
Daughter of Michael & Bonnie Patterson
Evan Adam Proulx
Son of David & Rachel Proulx
Thomas Henry Sylla
Son of William & Monica Sylla
Gavin Fitzgerald Collins
Son of Garrett & Helene-Marie Collins
Connor Joseph Durkin
Son of John & Susan Durkin
Gabriel Alfred Place
Son of Christopher & Therese Anne Place

MATRIMONY

Bradford F. Rolph & Dawn M. Pischetola
Lawrence D. Ramunno & Catherine A. Peters
Crystal A. Toof & Daniel L. Rollins
Sara B. Curra & Timothy J. O'Sullivan
Linzee A. Hall & Stephen N. Mahar
Trisha L. Currier & John T. Crowley
Cassandra M. Hennequin & Steve R. Marchand
Kelly C. Seaman & John F. Marks

FUNERALS

Marie Monagle
Harold B. Magg
John W. Toner IV
Catherine Marie Kezer
Robert B. Nicholson
Margaret Saunders
Cathleen O'Brien
Stephen Geraci
George E. Heroux
Johanna Sefcik
James E. Fish
Nora Gagne
Henry Berounsky
Sandra E. Caldwell

Newsletter Articles

We are always looking for articles from our parishioners for "Connections". Have a story or a photo about your slant on parish life? If so, contact John O'Sullivan, editor at 603-436-1622 or by email: adccetera@mediaone.net.

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