



BELL TOWER

Msgr. Shugrue Nears Completion of Term at Immaculate Conception

In 1991, Fr. Timothy Shugrue was installed as Pastor of Immaculate Conception Church. The 18 years since then have been a time of numerous changes here in our Parish. Among the more notable were: the restoration of the interior of the church, the startup of Tegakwita Academy (Pre-K), the formation of the Children's Choir, the renovation of Madonna Hall, formation of the Pastoral Council, and many other less noticeable, yet as important accomplishments. One constant during all these changes have been under Monsignor Tim's oversight and guidance. He

has provided a center of stability in the midst of the changes occurring in both our parish and the



community at large. Effective July 1, Fr. Tim has been assigned as Parochial Vicar at St Michael's in Cranford, NJ. The next edition of Bell Tower will feature an in-depth interview with

Msgr. Shugrue as he shares his memories and reflects on his tenure as pastor of Immaculate Conception.

Parishioners are invited to share their stories and memories about our pastor. Please email our editor with your memories, anecdotes, & thoughts at Kevin.Kurdziel@verizon.net.

Rev. Joseph Scarangella has been appointed pastor of IC effective July 1, 2009. Fr. Scarangella is currently Parochial Vicar at St. Aloyouis Church, Caldwell, NJ. Additional information regarding Fr. Joe's assignment to our parish will be covered in a future edition of BT.

Pastoral Council Conducts Parishioner Survey

The Pastoral Council recently reviewed the results of a parishioner survey it conducted earlier this year. The survey was developed in assist with the transition process that will occur this summer when Rev. Joseph Scarangella begins his term as pastor at Immaculate Conception on July 1st. The survey asked parishioners to respond to a series of questions regarding many

facets of the parish including spiritual life, parish life of service, catholic education, parish community life, and administration. The survey also gave parishioners the option of submitting comments at the end of each section. The Pastoral Council discussed the results of the survey with parishioners during a recent coffee hour presentation.

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Young Parishioners enjoy Why Catholic Experience.

By Cathy Mulroe



Three years ago, when our parish was introducing the “Why Catholic?” series, Amy Chambers and I went to an informational meeting. We were both very interested but did not want to be out of the house one additional evening a week. One of us came up with the idea of having a mother-daughter group. We understood that the series was intended for adults but, after discussing it with Msgr. Shugrue, we thought it was worth a try.

We decided to start off with a small group and we each invited one mother and daughter to join us. At the time the girls were in 6th and 7th grade. Right from the start, it was a

success. The girls enjoyed sharing their faith with others their own age. The discussions were very thought provoking and their observations and comments were insightful. I think the other mothers would agree that the girls challenged us to think more deeply about our faith and what it means to us.

After that first year, when we started again in the fall, we agreed to invite any interested 8th and 9th graders in the parish to join us. Three teenagers joined us and two of them have remained with the group. It has evolved into a teen group with two or three mothers joining them. We have just started our fourth

year and, once again, any teenager now in 9th or 10th grade is more than welcome to join us. We meet every other Sunday at 7 p.m.

When my younger daughter, Fiona, saw how much her sister enjoyed meeting with other teenagers to share their faith, she wanted to start her own group. This Spring, she and four friends have started a “Why Catholic?” group under the supervision of their parents. These girls met when they were 3 years old in our parish nursery school, Tegakwita Academy, and now they are 12 and remain good friends. to Immaculate have kept them close.

Parishioner Receives Sacraments at Easter Vigil



Avril Fagan, was welcomed into the Church through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Solemn Vigil of Easter. Avril Fagan was born in Jamaica West Indies and grew up in Queens, NY. She has lived in Montclair for 20 years with her husband of 25

years, Patrick and 10 year old son Liam. . The Fagans have been long time members of IC. As Liam began to prepare for his first Holy Communion, Avril realized the importance of becoming a part of the church so as to guide her son and share a common faith with her family. Patrick 's family is

Catholic and she has always gone to church with them and felt a spiritual bond through the experience. Becoming a Catholic was part of a natural progression of faith. She learned quite a lot through R.C.I A. and was truly ready and happy to become an “official” member of the Catholic church.

Mary’s Pantry Needs Donations



The shelves in Mary’s Pantry are nearly depleted after a long cold winter. Although spring is here corner, the demand for those seeking assistance from the pantry has continued. In order to keep shelves well stocked we are asking for donations of unopened/

nonperishable items such as: pasta, jelly, canned tuna, crackers, and dry milk. Low salt items are especially helpful. You can drop off items during the week at the Parish Center (ramp entrance); on weekends please use the shelf located in the church vestibule. Gifts of

money are also helpful. Donations to Mary’s Pantry are a beautiful way to memorialize a deceased loved one or friend. Such gifts are acknowledged to the family of the deceased. It is also possible to arrange a recurring weekly or monthly donation for Mary’s Pantry.

Archbishop's Annual Appeal

The 2009 Bishop's Annual Appeal is underway here at Immaculate Conception. This annual fund drive supports important archdiocesan programs including

support of the many pastoral, educational and charitable services that are maintained by the Archdiocese of Newark.

In 2008 Immaculate Conception parishioners contributed \$58,543 to the appeal, or 103% of our assigned goal. This resulted in a

rebate of \$1,311, which was returned to the parish. Congratulations, IC! We thank all our 2008 donors, and encourage everyone to renew their support or become a new donor

in 2009. Regrettably, not all the parishes in our deanery



achieved their goals, so the proposed 10% reduction in goals for 2009 will not ap-

ply. Still, IC's goal this year is \$58,947 - clearly achievable in light of our 2008 total - and the programs funded by the Appeal are even more dependent on it

in the current economic downturn. Parish stewardship guidelines

suggest 5% of weekly income for parish support and 5% for other charities, including the Archbishop's Appeal. Your support is greatly appreciated. So far the parish has reached a little more than 50% of this year's goal. It's still not too late to make a pledge. Your generosity is appreciated.

Concert Recognizes Msgr. Shugrue's Pastorate

On **Sunday, June 14 at 4:00 PM**, the parish Music Ministry presented a special concert in recognition of the conclusion of Msgr. Shugrue's 18-year pastorate. Parishioners and members of the community at large were dazzled by the The Immaculate Conception Adult Choir and guest singers who performed magnificently under Preston's direction. Former Music Director Renee Ann Louprette accompanied the Choir and shared some wonderful organ solos. She was joined by Preston Dibble for

the final duet, a spectacular 4-hands rendition of Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever" in recognition of Flag Day. Another former Music Director, Chris McElroy, traveled from England to sing with the Choir. The full church also enjoyed the marvelous contributions from John Lambert and the Gramercy Brass and harpist Barbara Biggers who played a piece arranged by parishioner Greg Dlugos. Generous parishioners and other contributors who placed greetings in the Ad Journal or made donations in

support of the concert, generated almost \$18,000 for our Music Endowment. The honoree, Monsignor Shugrue, was especially thankful to all who coordinated and attended stating, "It was a wonderful afternoon, summoning up memories of so many moments I will never forget from 18 years of service at Immaculate Conception, and I am so happy that my mother and the rest of my family were able to experience it with me. From the bottom of my heart, THANK YOU, ALL! God love you!"

Pastoral Council Welcomes New Members

The pastoral council recently filled several vacancies by welcoming new members who were seated over the last couple of months. The new members include Jonathan Lace, Will Taylor, and Trish Buggy. The Pastoral Council is chaired by Ceil Zimmermann. Other members include Deana Cam-

pion, Ed Haas, Kevin Kurdziel, Joan Lisovicz, Jon Bonesteel, and Neal Zimmermann.

The Council has been very busy over the past several months. The council is working closely with Msgr. Shugrue on the transition to new pastor Fr. Joe Scarangella this summer.

Pastoral Council members are eager to provide the incoming pastor with as much information as possible regarding the parish family here at Immaculate Conception.

The council anticipates working closely with Fr. Scarangella as he begins his term.

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Church of the Immaculate Conception

Visit our website
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Bell Tower Is Back

It has been quite sometime since Immaculate Conception Parish has published Bell Tower, it's official newsletter. It is our hope that we will be able to publish subsequent editions on a quarterly basis. It has been the priority of Pastor Msgr. Timothy Shugrue and the Pastoral Council to reestablish this newsletter, with the hope of keeping parishioners informed. Moving forward, we expect to expand the Bell Tower and provide information on parish events, and other items that may be of interest to parishioners. It is our hope that Bell Tower will supplement current sources of parish information such as the weekly bulletin and par-

ish websites. Please let us know if you are interested in submitting an article or if you would like to assist with the publication of future issues. Contact Bell Tower editor Kevin Kurdziel at 973-338-9022 or via email at Kevin.Kurdziel@verizon.net.



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