

## In this issue...

- 1... Faithful Citizenship Initiative
- 2... Photos: Annual Parish Picnic
- 3... Spotlight on... Christina Kozyn
- 4... "Nuns on the Bus"
- 4... Update: Social Justice Activities
- 5... The DREAMers
- 6... Social Justice & Peace Websites
- 7... Nat'l Black Catholic Congress 2012
- 8... Miracles are Happening: Medor
- 9... Religious Education Program
- 10... Theology On Tap
- 11... OLQP Finance Council
- 12... Guatemala
- 12... Calendar

## Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church

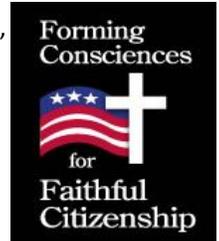
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**Editor's Note:** *The Fall issue of the Advocate comes as the campaign season is heating up. It explores the OLQP Social Justice Committee's new Faithful Citizenship initiative and other social justice actions aimed at helping the most vulnerable members of society. Be sure to read our Spotlight on OLQP's indispensable business manager Christina Kozyn and the first article written by our new Social Justice and Outreach Minister Michelle Knight. You can also find out more about Theology on Tap, the Finance Council and what happened at the recent National Black Catholic Congress. And don't miss the latest updates on the religious education program, our twin parish in Haiti and some very cool pictures of the OLQP picnic! -- Paula Cruickshank, Editor, The Advocate*

## The Faithful Citizenship Initiative: *An Interview with Anne Murphy*

Beginning in September 2012, in advance of the national elections, the OLQP Social Justice Committee (SJC) will spearhead a "Faithful Citizenship Initiative," using as a guide the U.S. Bishops' document entitled "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship." *The Advocate* spoke to Anne Murphy, a member of the SJC who is helping to coordinate the activity.



### **Q. Why did the Committee choose this initiative?**

**A.** The SJC sponsors two major projects each year. Our spring effort was the post-cards and letters we solicited to be delivered to our area Congressmen, asking that they make a priority in the 2013 budget for programs that help feed the poor. Noting that the elections are coming in November, we decided that an activity that promotes responsible citizenship and political participation was an important area of emphasis. A key purpose of the initiative is to provide the parish community with information, formation, education around the Church's teaching, and with that knowledge parishioners will be further inspired to community service and advocacy.

### **Q. Why was the Bishops' document chosen as the starting point for the initiative?**

**A.** The document has been around for a number of years, although it has been amended several times in minor ways, the latest amendment occurring this year. In a few paragraphs it summarizes Catholic moral values in society. In my years of work with Catholic Charities I became quite familiar with the document and believe it provides a good beginning for an education in the Church's teaching. Most Catholics have never read it; many have never even heard of it.

### **Q. What kind of "kick off" do you envision for the initiative?**

**A.** OLQP on September 20 is hosting a program on Faithful Citizenship, with keynote speaker, Dr. Stephen M. Colecchi, Director, Office of International Justice and Peace, USCCB. Dr. Colecchi will explore Church guidance on specific policy issues and how to apply moral principles to such areas as war, housing, health care, abortion, and immigration, among others. After the keynote, attendees will form smaller groups for face-to-face discussions on the Bishops' document.

### **Q. What other events, prior to the elections, do you anticipate?**

**A.** Sometime in a September-early October time frame, we expect to conduct voter registration at Queen of Peace. It likely will occur on two consecutive Sundays after all the Masses. We will be making a particular effort to help our Hispanic citizens register and to help everyone understand the state promulgated regulations regarding personal identification at the voting polls.

Early in November, just prior to the November 6 election, we are planning a prayer service at Queen of Peace to pray for civil leaders, highlighting areas of

Faithful Citizenship and the community's ongoing Christian responsibility to civic engagement, including service and advocacy. We currently are deciding whether to open this service to other churches and other faiths or to keep it within the Queen of Peace community. Prayer will be a continuing part of the initiative, including prayer cards, invocations during the Prayers of the Faithful, and other opportunities for religious expression.

**Q. What do you hope to accomplish by the initiative?**

**A.** There are a number of positive outcomes that we anticipate. First, we want to acquaint the "people in the middle pews" with Catholic teaching on social and political issues and engagement. Second, we want to get people thinking. Too often voters enter the booth and cast their ballots without serious consideration, voting just as they have always done. We want to get the idea across that voting is not an easy decision. There are no perfect candidates. Informed choices must be made. This Initiative will offer opportunities to grow in faith and help us use the lens of the Gospel message when we vote.

**Q. What do you mean by "people in the middle pews"?**

**A.** That term refers to church members who attend Mass regularly but seldom extend themselves beyond that weekly activity. They often do not participate in adult learning opportunities. They don't see the need to do that. Most do not participate in other parish-based activities, They don't feel any obligation to do so. They are good people doing what some might call the minimum and "checking the box each week."

Parish leaders, including Social Justice Committees, around the country are always seeking ways to "stir the pot" and motivate "middle pew Catholics" to engage. Engage in parish-based activities; engage in deepening spirituality and engage in trying to understand better the Gospel call to discipleship.

I know that there are many members of OLQP who don't believe there are "middle pew Catholics" at OLQP — but there

are. And while the weeks before a national election are stimulating ones for many of us, especially so because we live in the shadow of the nation's capital, there are Catholics who are not aware or don't think about the moral lens or the Church's teachings when debating politics or what's going on in the world.

*The Faithful Citizenship Initiative is intended to rouse the whole parish to learn what the church teaches on the role of faith and conscience in political life, and to engage in the conversation and the activities.* We seek to convey that "responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation".

**Q. How realistic is that goal given the strong polarization that appears to have seized our American political system?**

**A.** We very much understand that polarization, but we will be promoting the idea of listening to one another, including listening carefully to people with whom we do not agree. Liberals should be listening to hear what the conservatives are saying, and vice versa, not just to voices with which they agree. We will encourage listening and openness. One of the programs we are planning for in October will focus on civil discourse and tools to promote civil dialogue.

**Q. At the end of the initiative, how will you and the SJC assess success?**

**A.** As I pondered this question, I remembered wisdom shared by Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta. She said: "I do not pray for success, I ask for faithfulness."

Organizationally, the Committee will likely assess "success" by noting the numbers of people who attend programs and anecdotal feedback from a broad swath of the parish community. Attitudinally, the Committee is trying to be faithful to the call to evangelize and has planned a program Initiative that will provide information, formation, and education that will prompt the parish community to service and advocacy. †

## THE ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC – SEPTEMBER 9, 2012



Photos by:  
Ted Majdosz



## Spotlight on... CHRISTINA KOZYN

By Jack Sullivan



From Larry's "A Saloon" to Queen of Peace, both publicans and priests have recognized the managerial talent of Christina Kozyn. She has been the quintessential "behind the scenes" business manager of the parish for more than two decades.

At 19, then the drinking age in Michigan, Christina was tapped by an Italian restaurant owner to manage his saloon and two years later to manage his new Ann Arbor eatery and bar. Thus began a series of management jobs for Christina.

Originally from Detroit, she met her Netherlands-born husband in Ann Arbor. After marriage and one child, the couple pulled up stakes in Michigan and headed for Washington, D.C., no job in sight but imbued with Catholic social teaching.

Living in Arlington, the couple quickly found Queen of Peace. While her husband worked as an intern on Capitol Hill, Christina found time to volunteer at the

parish. In 1990 the pastor, Father James Healy, importuned her to take the recently vacated position of parish business manager. "At first I said no," explained Christina, "but after his other leads failed to work out, he came back and I agreed." That was 22 years ago.

Christina's work experience, together with training in accounting and business, proved to be a perfect fit for the multiplicity of tasks involved with managing the business of a parish with an annual budget of \$1.2 million, 1,600 registered families, a professional lay staff, and a multiplicity of ministries. "When I started at Queen of Peace and for many years thereafter, I was the only person in the parish office. There was not even a receptionist," she noted.

During her tenure, Christina has seen a succession of pastors and assistant pastors. All have recognized her ability, not only in accounting and human resources, but in helping solve problems - not all of

a business nature.

"Allocating space to groups needing a place to gather may be my single most difficult day-to-day issue," she said. In addition to accommodating parish organizations, OLQP opens its door to community groups like Alcoholics Anonymous, which meets at the parish weekly.

Christina also is active with the funeral ministry, which she helped to found. The logistics problems of funerals can include providing an appropriate space for after-Mass greeting and hospitality. "Because funerals are often so stressful for the families, there can be conflicts over the arrangements that complicate matters," she noted. She sometimes must act as an arbiter. Other responsibilities include publishing the Sunday bulletin and compiling the announcements read from the pulpit.

While Christina's initial volunteer service was at OLQP, she has been an active volunteer in several Arlington organizations. For years she was a member of the Arlington Local Human Rights Committee, a state mandated group. She also has been active in local mental health efforts and currently is seeking a volunteer position with Capital Caring, to offer care, comfort and dignity to those living with serious illness. Her daughter, Sarah, catching the same spirit, currently is a Peace Corp Volunteer, working "urban agriculture" in Senegal, West Africa.

Despite the additional tasks for her entailed by the strong outreach efforts of the parish, Christina strongly supports them. "At the same time I recognize that all parishioners are not able to participate in our ministries as much as they would like," she said. "Couples are working at two jobs with two or three children at home. I believe many parishioners make up for their lack of time by generosity in the collection basket." ✚

### Reflections....

*(In a follow-up interview, Jack Sullivan asked Christina to offer her thoughts on what it means to be a member of the OLQP community. Her reflections follow.)*

"What is true for Sarah, John and me is the tremendous impact the Spiritans have had on our lives. It's what I point to every time I'm asked 'how do you stay?'

I remember taking on the role of Office Administrator 22 years ago. I was very sure of my ability to manage the office, but not so sure about my feelings toward the Church. More and more I heard news about disgruntled Catholics, censured priests, the clergy sex abuse scandal, Catholics calling it quits. I wanted to trust Fr. Healy's counsel, "you can affect more change from within [the church], than from the outside." Yet, I struggled and wondered from time to time if I was in the right place.

It wasn't until Fr. Tuozzolo that I realized change —real change — and it was taking place with very little effort. It was as simple as a smile, as ordinary as a welcome! Story after story, Catholics who had sworn 'never again' were coming back; young couples who had all but had the door slammed in their face could hardly believe they finally found a parish to baptize their child; and the countless others who were made to feel they weren't authentically Catholic were telling me they finally felt they were home. So maybe it's not a change that affects the larger Church, but it's a start and it's affecting more and more people.

The clergy is responsible for setting the tone of the parish. That message is clear — everyone really is welcome. I still struggle. I think I always will. But it's nice to be in the comfort of 'the right place' when doing so."



# “Nuns on the Bus” Advocate for the Poor and Marginalized

By Kathy Desmond

More than a dozen OLQP parishioners showed up at the designated spot on Capitol Hill at noon on July 2 to welcome the “Nuns on the Bus” as they rolled into DC. The event was billed as an interfaith prayer service and press conference. The focus of the OLQP group, like those of many in the crowd of several hundred on a hot summer day, was to give support to the nuns for their work with and advocacy for the poor

However, the nuns on the bus themselves had a different purpose for the tour. Network, a Catholic social justice lobby, organized the nine-state bus tour to rally support against drastic budget cuts to federal programs that help the poor that were being considered by Congress. ([www.nunsonthebus.org](http://www.nunsonthebus.org)). Sister Simone Campbell, head of Network, said they supported an alternative budget, *A Faithful Budget*, which is also backed by an ecumenical coalition of Christian,



Sister Simone Campbell, left, and Sister Diane Donoghue, right, lead the way as the “Nuns on the Bus” arrive on Capitol Hill in Washington, Monday, July 2, 2012. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

Jewish and Muslim faith-based organizations. (<http://www.faithfulbudget.org>). Others on the bus described the work of the nuns they visited en route to Washington to help the poor and struggling. These sisters who are working on the front lines of poverty shared stories of how they depended on federal programs in their work. Catholic nuns serve at the margins of society to help the poor who are struggling. The nuns’ faith leads them to support government programs

that enable all – in the US as well as the rest of the world — to obtain needed food, education, health care and employment.

Sister Simone emphasized that the US Catholic bishops had strongly opposed the House budget plan that was approved in the spring. In their March 6 budget letter the bishops stated, “A central moral measure of any budget proposal is how it affects ‘the least of these’ (Matthew 25). The needs of those who are hungry and homeless, without work should come first. Government and other institutions have a shared responsibility to promote the common good of all, especially ordinary workers and families who struggle to live in dignity in difficult times.”

In the Bishops’ April 17 and 18 letters to the House Committees addressing cuts required by the budget resolution, Bishop Blaire of Stockton, CA, Chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development said, “The House-passed budget fails to meet these moral criteria.” ([www.usccb.org/news/2012/12-063.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/news/2012/12-063.cfm)).

In an interview with National Public Radio on June 8, Sister Simone noted that the bus tour was spurred by Rep. Paul Ryan’s claim that the justification for his proposed budget cuts is based on the social teachings of the Catholic Church. She said the House budget plan “hurts people who are already suffering and rejects church teaching about solidarity, inequality, the choice for the poor, and the common good. That’s wrong.” Sr. Simone also appeared on *Bill Moyers & Company* show on August 24 and explained the social justice argument in support of these federal programs.

She countered a Catholic rationale for small government and budget cuts based on the principal of subsidiarity and voluntary charity to meet human needs pre-

sented by Robert Royal, founder of the Faith and Reason Institute, and used by Catholic supporters of the House budget.



OLQP contingent out to greet the nuns’ arrival in DC

(There is a link to the Moyers interview on [www.networklobby.org](http://www.networklobby.org)).

The principal of subsidiarity calls for decisions to be made and actions taken at the most local level possible. The needs are simply too great to be met solely by individual charity and the charitable works of the sisters.

At the rally, OLQP supporters bought tee shirts with a message that aptly explained the reason for their presence on the Capitol grounds that day. The message proclaimed, “I’m with the Nuns. Standing together for community, solidarity and justice.” ☩

**As Catholic bishops, we have tried to remind Congress that these choices are economic, political, and moral. We offer the following moral criteria to guide difficult budgetary choices:**

- 1. Every budget decision should be assessed by whether it protects or threatens human life and dignity.**
- 2. A central moral measure of any budget proposal is how it affects “the least of these” (Matthew 25). The needs of those who are hungry and homeless, without work or in poverty should come first.**
- 3. Government and other institutions have a shared responsibility to promote the common good of all, especially ordinary workers and families who struggle to live in dignity in difficult economic times.**

Excerpt: U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ March 6, 2012 letter to the U.S. House of Representatives.

## Update on Social Justice Activities

By Michelle Knight

It has been a wonderful, busy, inspiring, four months since I began as the Social Justice and Outreach minister. We have increased our food pantry distribution to 120 bags of groceries each week. We are working towards having tortilla corn flour (brands such as Maseca) available for all clients who use it. Thanks to the over 30 volunteers who shop, pack and distribute the food and to all of the parishioners who donate food and money, we are able to meet the growing need for food in our community.

Matt 25 continues to provide clothing and small household goods to an increasing population. A recent Wednesday saw 99 customers come through the doors. Over 50 volunteers keep this ministry going. Rich Slivoskey coordinated the store for several years and has created a very organized system there. He recently stepped down and was followed in the role by Sally Diaz-Wells. Isabel Staff is the assistant coordinator.

The Gabriel Project, a program for pregnant women and mothers of infants, began a new effort. The Gabriel volunteers set up a table during the food pantry distribution on Wednesdays and provide clothing, equipment and assistance.

I have been very impressed to see how many of our ministries require little - if any - staff input to succeed. An example is the monthly dinner prepared for Carpenter's Shelter. Those volunteers know exactly what to do and when and how to do it to feed the homeless families and individuals residing at the shelter.

The Brown Bag lunch ministry requires little from staff, but the needs of the day laborers have changed and we are in the midst of working on improving this program. Please let me know if you are available to prepare food that would be appreciated by the Hispanic population and others. We might have a volunteer opportunity for you!

All of the above is social justice but it is focused on outreach. The parish also keeps busy with social justice issues on the structural or systemic level. We had a wonderful offering of postcards in early summer. Kate White spoke to members of the youth group, explaining the needs of hungry people around the world and the work that the federal government can do to help meet those needs. The youth then decorated postcards with appropriate illustrations and messages.



Members of OLQP's SJC deliver postcards to Congressman Moran

After the Masses for two weekends, members of the Social Justice committee assisted parishioners in completing the postcards to Senators Jim Webb and Mark Warner and to Rep. Jim Moran who coincidentally attended Mass at OLQP during the postcard signing. In late July, mem-

bers of the committee met with Moran, Webb and a staff member for Warner to deliver the postcards with our message that the needs of the poor and vulnerable must come first in the federal budget and program plans.

The above really only skims the surface of the amazing work that was undertaken over the last few months by the generous and loving people of OLQP. ✝

## Immigration Reform ...

### THE DREAMers:

#### A First Baby Step

By Bill Barbieri

All of us have our dreams. The undocumented among us constantly live in fear of being "discovered" and continually suffer the bitter effects of prejudice. They dream of coming out of the shadows, having authorization to work and owning an official government ID.

The DREAM ACT, legislation that would have given children brought here by their undocumented parents legal status and a path to citizenship, failed to be approved by Congress. President Obama, however, on June 15, 2012, announced that he would use his executive authority to grant "Deferred Action" status to the class of young adults who would have been beneficiaries of the DREAM ACT.

The future beneficiaries of the President's *Deferred Action* decree are also known as "The DREAMers". To qualify to be a DREAMer one must be:

- ❖ under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012;
- ❖ living in the U.S. before age 16;
- ❖ residing continuously in the U.S. since June 15, 2007;
- ❖ physically present in the country on June 15, 2012;
- ❖ currently in school, graduated from high school, earned a GED, or honorably discharged from the Armed Forces.

Qualifying young adults also must not have been convicted of a felony, a significant misdemeanor, or they must not be a threat to national security. They also must have entered without inspection, their lawful immigration status must have expired, and they do not have any current lawful status.

The *Deferred Action* that DREAMers have access to is a status designated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that gives them permission to lawfully remain in the United

*DREAMers, Continues on page 6*



# Social Justice and Peace

## Websites

### Documents of the Second Vatican Council

[http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist\\_councils/ii\\_vatican\\_council/index.htm](http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/index.htm)

- Oct. 11, 2012 – the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the SECOND Vatican Council; find the documents here. Consider gathering a small group to read and discuss the key documents

### PACEM IN TERRIS

[http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_xxiii/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_j-xxiii\\_enc\\_11041963\\_pacem\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_xxiii/encyclicals/documents/hf_j-xxiii_enc_11041963_pacem_en.html)

- April 2013 – the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of PACEM ET TERRIS (*Peace on Earth*). As suggested above, gather a small group to read and discuss this encyclical from Blessed John XXIII.

### United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

[www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

- <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/>
  - ▷ As the 2012 general election nears, familiarize yourself with the teaching of the Catholic Church on ***A Call to Political Responsibility***.
- <http://www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/>
  - ▷ One of the departments at the US Conference of Catholic Bishops under whose aegis much of the social justice study, research and documents are implemented. Recent documents include the Bishops' Labor Day statement; the letters of the US Bishops to the US Congress, etc. See Resources and Tools link. Sign up to receive NOTES for NEIGHBORS.

### Catholic Social Teaching

<http://osjspm.org/CatholicSocialTeaching>

- A comprehensive source of Catholic Social Teaching resources with substantive content.

### Poverty USA: We Can End It

[www.povertyusa.org](http://www.povertyusa.org)

- Recently updated with lots of current data; could be "food for discussion" with others.

### National Catholic Rural Life Conference

[www.ncrlc.com](http://www.ncrlc.com)

- Important information about a wide spectrum of national issues that affect rural communities, and all people, especially related to food, hunger, farmers.

### Bread for the World

[www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org)

- A source of information about global hunger and related concerns with a focus on Christian responsibility.

*DREAMers, Continues from page 5*

States and work during a two-year period. It is not a path to permanent residence or Citizenship. DREAMers who can demonstrate a need will also be granted employment authorization, should be able to get a Social Security number, and will likely be eligible for a Virginia driver's license. It is still uncertain whether deferred action will allow DREAMers to attend Virginia state schools, get in-state tuition, scholarships, or grant money. It is assumed that these benefits will be renewed at the end of the two-year period, but it is not certain.

The application fee for *Deferred Action* is \$465. Since a background investigation will be required for all applicants, it is extremely important for all applicants to be 100% honest in answering all requests for information.

Because of the complexity of the application process, it is highly recommended that all potential DREAMers have a lawyer. Reasonable legal assistance is available from:

❖ **HOGAR IMMIGRANT SERVICES**

703-534-9805

[www.hogarimmigrantservices.org](http://www.hogarimmigrantservices.org);

❖ **JUST NEIGHBORS**

703-979-1240

[www.justneighbors.org](http://www.justneighbors.org) ]; and

❖ **AYUDA**

[www.ayuda.com](http://www.ayuda.com)

As many as 1.7 million young adults could be beneficiaries of the President's *Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals* decree. It may well be the first baby step toward urgently needed comprehensive immigration reform. It is certainly something to celebrate. ✝

### Christmas Bazaar

Sunday, November 24, 2012

9 AM to 1 PM, Fr. Ray Hall

Sponsored by:

**The Seasoned Christians**

The Seasoned Christians warmly invite you to do a little holiday shopping at their annual Christmas Bazaar.

Vendors tables available.

Please watch the parish bulletin for details!

# National Black Catholic Congress 2012

## Celebrating 25 Years of “What We Have Seen and Heard”

**Theme: Faith Engaged: Empower, Equip, Evangelize**

**By Veronica Dabney**

Every 5 years, since 1987, representatives from the Arlington diocese have attended the National Black Catholic Congress (NBCC), which has been held in various cities around the country. Approximately 2,500 people attended the National Black Catholic Congress XI in Indianapolis July 19-21. The 2012 Arlington delegation was made up of 29 enthusiastic Catholics from churches throughout the diocese, including seven from Our Lady Queen of Peace (OLQP): Judie Arceneaux, Winsome Craig, Veronica Dabney, Barbara Harris, Sandra Henry, Maude Holt and Jackie Smith. The full delegation was led by Deacon Al Anderson, a member of St. Josephs in Alexandria, who was ordained in January of 2011.

The first NBCC met in Chicago in 1887 during the Reconstruction period after the civil war to explore ways of improving the status and participation of newly freed African Americans in the Catholic Church. Subsequently, the Congress met five more times in the late 1800's. The NBCC lay dormant for a century until it met again in 1987. Though a century had passed since the last Congress, many of the same concerns remained with regard to the status of African Americans and their culture within the Catholic Church. The time seemed right to revisit the goals of the Congress and redefine African Americans' desire to participate fully in their faith community.

The modern day Congress has offered a combination of colorful African and African- American-themed pageantry, prayer, spirit-filled music, and spiritual and intellectual enlightenment. There are exhibits from Catholic churches, schools and organizations from all over the country, vendors offering everything from Bibles and rosaries, to pictures, and posters. But the most important element is that of kinship—a feeling of meeting other Catholics who understand your experience in the church. The most

important work to be done is to construct a pastoral plan to guide the black Catholic community for the next five years.

As in the past, this Congress began with a solemn and impressive procession of Archbishops, Bishops, Priests, Brothers and Seminarians from around the country. The 2012 concelebrants and homilists included: Fr. Reginald Whitt, OP, Ph.D., Prof. of Law, Univ. of St. Thomas, Minnesota; Bishop J. Terry Steib, S.V.D, Bishop of Memphis Tennessee; and, Bishop John Ricard SSJ, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Fla., and member of the Congress Board.

Besides the pageantry of the Masses, the Congress offered several plenary sessions as well as a full schedule of informative and spirited workshops—nearly 40 of them, that all related in some form with the current year's chosen theme: “Faith Engaged; Empower, Equip, Evangelize.”

One of the most unforgettable highlights of the plenary sessions was presented by keynote speaker **Immaculée Ilibagiza** whose Catholic faith gave her the strength and faith to survive the 1994 Rwandan genocide. Ilibagiza told the story of how she and several other women spent 91 days huddled silently together in the cramped bathroom of a local pastor's

*NBCC, Continues on page 8*

*Examples of the 2012 interesting and popular (standing room only) workshops, with brief remarks by OLQP delegates who attended them, are:*

### **“Where Did All The Time Go?”**

**C. Vanessa White, Ph.D., Facilitator**

“...Parish life, faith formation and youth issues were the main focus of this workshop. All three of these areas are interrelated. Dr. White challenged workshop participants to make space for God's active presence, take time to listen within and rest in the Lord. She recommended that everyone try something new for example, take a walk daily; drink more water daily... , etc.

...Workshop participants left with a List of Top Ten Questions for Personal Reflection; a list of suggested Practices for Wholeness and Balance for Busy People....” *Jackie Smith*

### **“Faith: Who Are You Really Trusting?”**

**Richard Lane, Facilitator**

“Mr. Lane is ... a rousing spiritual evangelist.... Many times during his workshop, he had participants on their feet in jubilation as he spoke and preached with authority and wisdom. He said that Christians-Catholics, in particular, are under attack by many forces in our modern day society and that they must be prepared to fight off these attacks....” *Jackie Smith*

### **“Father Augustus Tolton: From Slave to Priest to Saint,”**

**Bishop Joseph Perry, Facilitator**

As Diocesan Postulator for the Cause of Father Augustus Tolton, Bishop Perry “... expounded on the life story of Father Tolton, explained the Canonization Process, updated the group on the status of his Cause and shared upcoming events to commemorate his life.

The latest update on his Cause is that earlier this year, in February 2012, the Sacred Congregation for the Causes of Saints at the Vatican granted Father Tolton the title of “Servant of God.” ....” *Judie Arceneaux*

## “Miracles are happening in Medor Because of You”

By Sue Carlson, M.D.

Pere Luckson, the pastor of St. Joseph parish in Medor, Haiti said these words during his August visit to OLQP. The visit was a whirlwind of meetings, gatherings, and Masses. He brought news on the progress in our sister parish. He attributes much of the good news to the generosity and prayers of our parish, but we know that the progress is a joint effort of persistent hard work of Pere Luckson, the Sisters, the teachers and students, the community leaders, the Clean Water Coordinator, the Reforestation Technicians, the entire Medor community, and yes, the amazing generosity and prayers of OLQP.

The children in Medor scored extremely well on the National Exams! For the 6th grade, 48 students out of 48 passed. For the 9th grade, 97 out of 117 passed. For the 12th grade, 10 of 19 passed and 8 students will be allowed to retake the exam next month. For the 13th grade, 6 out of 7 passed. This means that six more children from Medor are eligible to apply for University.

The St. Joseph schools ranked 4th in the whole Artibonite region, and scored the best of all rural schools in the region. The principals of the schools in the cities have been asking their pupils how they could let those mountain kids from Medor out-score them.

Cholera continues to be a problem for the community. Approximately 20% of the people living in the 74-square-miles that make up St. Joseph parish have had cholera since December 2010. Pere Luckson estimates that one-to-two percent of the parish community have died. Thankfully, the incidence of cholera is decreasing in the area due to community education on prevention, clean water, and sanitation.

*Haiti, Continues on page 9*



*Members of the OLQP Haiti Committee treat Pere Luckson to a relaxing evening at an outdoor concert.*

*NBCC, Continues from page 7*

house, hiding from their tormentors. She credits her faith with empowering her to eventually forgive the murderers who had killed her entire family (with the exception of one brother who had been studying out of the country). She talked movingly about the gifts of faith and belief in the power of prayer and the healing power of forgiveness.\*

Besides workshops, members of the Arlington delegation volunteered to sing in the Combined Gospel Choir, which sang at all of the Masses and also participated in an outstanding evening gospel concert. The choir, made up of voices from archdioceses and dioceses throughout the United States and directed by Aaron Thompson, added the spirited and emotional gift of gospel music to every event.

On the last day, Bishop Steib presided over the first National Black Catholic Congress, Inc., Servant of Christ Awards Ceremony, which honored 61 diocesan leaders, including three Lifetime Achievement Honors, for their dedicated service to their diocese and the surrounding communities.

One member of our delegation, Eugene Harper, received a Servant of Christ award for his outstanding service at St. Joseph's in Alexandria, including serving as the Director of the gospel choir for many years, work as Chairperson of Black Catholic Ministries, and the National Association of Black Catholic Administrators. (Mr. Harper directed the choir at OLQP's Scholarship Prayer Breakfast this past June.)

As usual there was a youth tier of workshops and activities on the agenda. Another highlight of the Congress came when more than 300 young people came forward and literally accepted the "torch" from their elders during the closing plenary session. It was an extremely powerful moment.

The young people also drafted a pastoral plan during one of their general sessions which focused on parish registration and closures, Catholic schools, marriage, deeper understanding of faith, solidarity with immigrants, and promoting vocations. Their plan will be developed and distributed as part of the overall Congress 5-year pastoral plan in the next few weeks.

Bishop Ricard closed the Congress with final remarks thanking all those who worked tirelessly to make it happen. His remarks were followed by the closing Mass and farewells to old and new Congress XI acquaintances.

The symbolic passing of the legacy of faith, service and evangelization from one generation to another has been the most valuable benefit to come from the NBCCs. For those in the Arlington diocese, and no doubt for Black Catholics throughout the country, these three or four days in July have become a way to strengthen bonds and renew faith in a manner that respects the cultural context with which they view their faith. †

\* Immaculee Ilibagiza's book: *Left to Tell; Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust*, Hay House. Visit the NBCC website for more information about the Congress: <http://www.nbccongress.org/>. For DVDs, CDs from the Congress: <http://www.nbccongress2012media.com/index.html>



## Religious Education Program Reaches Out to All Ages

The Religious Education Programs at OLQP teach children how to recognize, understand and respond to God's love as authentic Catholic Christians. The primary objective is to bring Jesus back to the kitchen table by supporting and facilitating parents as first teachers of the faith.

Religious Education Director Katie Remedios shared plans for the upcoming school year. She said that recognition of the uniqueness of families as they make the faith journey is a goal of the religious education program. A recent leadership conference attended by OLQP staff stressed working with families "where they are." The conference focused on the many different worlds of the children of God whose initial reactions to religious education may suggest a lack of interest.

Language barriers may also interfere with their parents' understanding of the goals of the program. Katie recalled that participants in the leadership conference were urged to strive to understand the diversity of each family who approaches the faith journey. Registration for the Neighborhood Circle program recognizes the differences that exist from family to family by asking "parents" rather than "mother" or "father" to complete the registration form.

Neighborhood Circles are the foundation of the OLQP Religious Education Program. Circles are a "hands on" interactive approach to learning, where faith is taught, modeled, and practiced in an intergenerational group setting, but materials are divided by ability. Each Circle is a gathering of six to eight families, and occasionally ten or more, who team together to explore the Catholic faith through personal faith sharing, scripture-based teaching, group celebration of the sacraments, community service, and community building activities. Families are grouped by geography, age, family size, or specific request.

There are now eighteen Circles that meet two to three times a month. A common lesson is considered by all the Circles. Each lesson is presented according to age differences so everyone in the Circle is discussing the same proof of God's love as well as a common lesson, which may include the Works of Mercy and the Beatitudes.

A traditional classroom religious education experience is offered to supplement Neighborhood Circles on the first Saturday of each month. All parish children grades K to 6 are encouraged to attend these classes that focus on Catholic foundations. While the children are in class, Father Tim meets with parents, who are standing-room-only participants at these foundation classes.

*RE Program, Continues on page 10*

*Haiti, Continues from page 8*

Parishioners are learning the need for continued vigilance against this preventable disease. Because all water sources in the area have been tested and found to be contaminated with fecal bacteria, the Klorfasil clean water program which uses dried bleach powder to sterilize the water and the latrine initiative are critical in the fight against cholera and other water-related illnesses.

Seventy-percent of the trees planted through the reforestation program in St. Joseph parish are thriving. This is a higher figure than some reforestation programs elsewhere. The farmers are incorporating the planting techniques being taught and are seeing results. The program is working toward sustainability and actively seeking alternative income generating activities. The phases of the project include: 1) Fast-growing trees that will stabilize the soil and that can be pruned to provide firewood for cooking; 2) Fruit bearing trees that grow more slowly but produce food and possible income; and 3) Inter-cropping with coffee plants that need shade and will provide income.

The repair of St. Joseph church, severely damaged in the 2010 earthquake, has been completed. To help stabilize the damaged church foundation, a new community hall was constructed under the church entryway. Pere Luckson hopes this new room can serve as a library or computer lab.



The church is the foundation for all community activities and most gatherings. It is the backbone of community life. Prior to the repair, the entire building was in danger of collapse. Funds for the restoration were obtained from several OLQP parishioners and from a grant obtained through our Haiti Committee.

The primary school buildings in Medor were destroyed in the earthquake of 2010. Phase 1 of the new primary school (7 classrooms) construction is complete. Phase 3 and 4 (teachers' work room, library, kitchen, multi-purpose room) will be finished soon. The new school is slated for dedication in January 2013.

Our Haiti Committee obtained grants for the bulk of the construction costs for phases 1,3 and 4 and is searching for grant funding to build phase 2 (8 classrooms). Please contact Sue Carlson (MarySusanCarlson@gmail.com) if you know of any potential funding sources.

During his visit Pere Luckson repeatedly thanked OLQP for our prayers and support for the people of Medor. He said, "From Kindergarten to Primary School to Secondary School to University, the kids who succeed carry you in their hearts. Our happiness is your happiness. Miracles are happening in Medor because of you." ✚



## Theology on Tap

### Exploring Our Faith One Glass at a Time

By Paula Cruickshank

Twice a month OLQP extends an open invitation to discuss our Christian faith at a popular watering hole in Arlington. While it would be a bit of a stretch to compare these encounters to a certain meeting at a well with a Samaritan woman several centuries ago, first-timers at Theology on Tap (TOT) will find some of the questions and answers to be as thought-provoking as they are surprising and insightful.

At a recent gathering, an OLQP member asked whether discovery of the so-called “God particle” undermined or reaffirmed the existence of God. One parishioner, a physicist, offered his thoughts. He reasoned that the new evidence should not have any bearing on Christian beliefs since finding a missing link crucial to scientific understanding of the physical universe does not contradict teachings of a higher being – in fact, it can be argued that the discovery of something so complex reinforces one’s faith in an all-knowing God.

Not every topic is so heady. Some are relatively light-hearted. One evening, one of the faithful regulars, Ted Majodsz, asked whether angels exist. Fr. Tom Tunney, who facilitates the discussions, responded that Church teachings say the heavenly beings are real and take on various roles from messenger to protector. The discussion then shifted to existence of the “Fallen Angel.” And the answer to that? Well, as they say, the Devil is in the details.

TOT is held at parishes around the country. While many follow the same format – a lecture followed by a question-and-answer session, OLQP predictably is not so formal. “Ours is an open forum. The agenda is determined by the participants,” Fr. Tom noted.

Co-facilitators Tony Remedios and Gerri Noble-Matocci keep the talks lively, or as Tony joked: “We are the troublemakers.”

Why Theology on Tap? The purpose of the informal group is “to help adults grow in their faith and discuss their faith,” Fr. Tom noted. “Our religious education is heavily focused on children. How about the adults?”

“I think it is interesting to find out what other people think. You can sit next to people in the pew on Sunday, [but] you don’t know what people think,” added Majodsz. At Theology on Tap, he added, a lot of people raise questions and others “bring up answers that you never thought of.”

Everyone is welcome to join the bi-monthly conversation. Have a beer or glass of wine. Order a hearty dinner from the ample menu. Or simply come to enjoy the food for thought. ☩

***Theology on Tap meets at 7 pm the second Monday and fourth Thursday of the month.*** It now has a new location in Shirlington. Please join us at the Capitol City Brewery, 4001 Campbell Ave., Arlington. All are welcome! Contact: Katie Remedios, [kremedios@olqpva.org](mailto:kremedios@olqpva.org).

*RE Program, Continues from page 9*

The Children’s Liturgy of the Word takes place at the three Sunday Masses (9:30, 11:15, and 1:00 p.m. Spanish). Approximately 150 children participate, and the chapel ministers, two high school seniors, whom the children idolize as “rock stars,” lead the weekly lessons and prayers.

This is a year of Evangelization in the parish. Every Wednesday families are invited to open their kitchen table at the dinner hour to welcome Jesus. The conversation starter is discussion of “what would Jesus do.” The topics are age appropriate with every family talking together about their faith. Single parishioners are urged to invite friends to Wednesday dinners to review challenging faith issues.

OLQP has several religious education programs for adults. “The Good News People” is a new program for young adults including just married parishioners. It is an experimental program in thirty parishes across that country that focuses on deepening understanding of Catholic faith and tradition. “Theology on Tap” is bigger than ever and remains a popular twice-a-month informal adult gathering to discuss matters of faith. (See separate article)Capitol City Brewery is a new venue that provides a private room that will accommodate 55. The same program is offered for students in grades 11 and 12 at OLQP.

Sacramental preparations commence with the new school year. Confirmation classes meet on Sundays before the 6:00 Mass. This year eighty children are registered for First Communion. This program is a partnership with parents who as their children’s first teachers are given texts and packets to assist in their children’s first communion preparations. In addition, there are six workshops during the year for parents to re-teach and reinforce the faith.

Community service projects also are supported by the Religious Education Program. The parish garden, which evolved with the support of the Boy Scouts, provides food for AFAC’s Plot Against Hunger. The parish garden provides fresh vegetables to AFAC including tomatoes, beans, peas, and squash. Four times a year, a parish delegation travels to nearby farms to glean vegetables for the poor of our community. Family members of all ages gather on Saturdays under the auspices of Mid-Atlantic Gleaning Network (MAGNET), which links to farmers who have crops that are edible but have been left after the harvest.

OLQP Religious Education Programs guide parents and children to make Jesus a welcome presence in their homes. ☩



# Finance Council Keeps Fiscal House in Order

By Betty Mills

A pastor wears many hats, though his chief duty is always the spiritual guidance of the parish. Realizing that financial concerns alone could be a full-time job, the Code of Canon Law for the Roman Catholic Church in 1983 mandated that all parishes establish a Finance Council to assist pastors in the administration of the financial resources of their parishes.

Father Jim Healey, who was pastor at the time, started the OLQP Finance Council in 1985. Ralph Johnson was appointed to the first Council by Fr. Healey and has served as Budget Director ever since. It is required by Canon Law that members of parish Finance Councils be actively participating parishioners, appointed rather than elected.

There can be as few as three or as many as nine appointed members on a Council. They normally serve for a term of three years. Meetings are held at least quarterly. The pastor presides at all meetings and has the ultimate responsibility for the budget, but works with the advice of the Council.



Ralph Johnson  
Budget Committee, Chair

The current OLQP Finance Council is made up of Fr. Tim Hickey, Christina Kozyn (Business Manager) and Ralph Johnson (Budget Director) as permanent members, and Carlton Augustine, Natalie Brunson (Secretary), David Carlson, Kezia Charles (Chair), Peggy Faragasso, Jo Marie Griesgraber, Dan Morrissey and Jim Powell as appointed members.

Kezia Charles, the current Council Chair, received her Bachelors degree in Mathematics from MIT and is employed as an actuary. She said that when she first became a member of the Council she was struck by the complexity of running an operation like this parish. Consequently, a Finance Council must have members experienced not just in finance, but in diverse fields such as law, construction, and business, among others.



Kezia Charles  
Finance Council, Chair

OLQP has more than fifty ministries, most of which have their own budgets. Overseeing them, budgeting for the upkeep of the physical plant, capital and operating expenses and reviewing financial statements and annual reports all fall within the purview of the Council.

The Council must also ensure that not only diocesan but state fiscal and accounting procedures are followed. We commend the members of the Council for their dedication. ☩

*From the...*

## Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish Finance Council Guidelines

The Parish Finance Council is established pursuant to the requirements of Canon 537 of the 1983 Code of Canon Law for the Roman Catholic Church, and is subject to the provisions of Canon Law. The Council exists to assist the pastor in the administration of the goods of the parish. The Council is accountable to the pastor.

The Council is envisioned as consisting of a select group of parishioners known for their spiritual maturity and love of Christ and the Church, endowed with special competence in financial matters and with prudent judgment. ...

The Council must serve in accord with the Gospel, over any secular business philosophy. Efficient use of resources and money management, in the context of the Catholic Church, must be measured primarily by the ability to nurture and foster the Christian mission and ministry of the parish community and diocese. A truly Catholic understanding of the mission of the Church insures "good business practices".

### Duties/Responsibilities

Assist in establishing timelines for development and implementation of the annual capital and operating budget for the parish, the school, parish organizations, and cemetery (if applicable). The pastor is responsible for the actual coordination/preparation of all parish budgets, but is to seek the advice of the Council. The pastor is to elicit the assistance of the parish business manager, bookkeeper and/or Parish Finance Council Chairperson to prepare the parish budget. Parish organizations should present their plans and a summary of expected cash receipts and disbursements to the Council during the budget cycle. All are an integral part of parish life and provide services to parishioners and/or general operations/special funding. Financial statements shall be submitted to the Council at least quarterly.

### Financial Records and Reporting

Review financial statements, including annual reports, to help determine that diocesan policies regarding fiscal and accounting procedures are being followed.

Review monthly and/or quarterly income and expense reports for the parish and school. Whenever possible, compare actual results to budget and prior year numbers. All significant variances should be explained with particular attention given to expenditures not included in the capital or operating budget. The Council should recommend budget amendments to bring revenues and expenditures into balance or propose a plan to correct the problem(s).

**OLQP Upcoming Calendar Highlights... visit [calendar.olqpva.org](http://calendar.olqpva.org) for much more**

September 20...	7:15 pm, Thursday, Founders Room Our Faith and the Call to Political Responsibility Dr. Stephen M. Colecchi, Keynote USCCB, Dept of Peace, Justice and Human Dev.	Nov. 19 & 20...	9:00 am - 12 noon, Monday & Tuesday, Hall Thanksgiving Food Basket Distribution
Sept 28 & 29...	6:30 pm Friday, 9:00 am Saturday, Founders Rm Water Into Wine Weekend for Engaged Couples	November 22...	10:00 am, Thursday Thanksgiving Day Mass
September 30...	4:00 pm, Sunday, Founders Room "Circles" 5th Anniversary Celebration	November 25...	9:00 am - 1:00 pm, Sunday, Fr. Ray Hall Seasoned Christians' Christmas Bazaar
October 4...	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Thursday, Church, Founders Help the Homeless Walk Church, Neighborhood, Founders Room	November 30...	7:00 pm, Friday, Founders Room Fr. Kelly Lecture Series
October 6 & 7...	All Masses Over-the-counter Medicine Drive for Medor, Haiti	December 8...	10 am, Mass Immaculate Conception
October 22..	7:00 pm - 8:30 pm, Monday Interfaith Meditation Group	Dec 8 & 9...	Shoeboxes for the Homeless Weekend, Hall Scarves for the Homeless Wrapping
October 23...	7:15 pm, Tuesday, Founders Room "Civil Discourse: Speaking Truth in Love" Panel & Discussion	December 12...	6:30 pm, Wednesday Reconciliation Service, Families
November 1...	All Saints Day, Thursday Masses: 8 am & 7 pm	December 15...	10:00 am, Saturday First Reconciliation Service
November 2...	7:00 pm, Friday, Founders Room Fr. Kelly Lecture Series	December 17...	7:00 pm, Monday Reconciliation Service
November 3...	9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Saturday, Fr. Ray Hall Christian Meditation Retreat	December 24...	Christmas Eve Masses 4:00 pm & 6:00 pm Family Mass 8:00 pm Family Mass in Spanish 11:30 pm Lessons and Carols, pre-Midnight Mass 12:00 am Midnight Mass
November 4...	7:30 pm, Sunday, Church Prayer Service, Pre-election	December 25...	10:00 am Christmas Day Mass
November 10...	9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Saturday, Church, Founders Rm Minkisi Annual Retreat	January 1...	11:00 am New Year's Day Mass Mary, Mother of God
November 17...	10:00 am - 3:00 pm, Saturday, Fr. Ray Hall Thanksgiving Food Basket Sorting Intergenerational Pie-making and baking	January 11...	7:00 pm, Friday, Founders Room Fr. Kelly Lecture Series
November 18...	Following 9:30 & 11:15 Masses, Sunday, Hall Thanksgiving Food Basket Bagging	January 21...	11:30 am, Monday Prayer Service: Martin Luther King Day
		Jan 25 & 26...	6:30 pm Friday, 9:00 am Saturday Water Into Wine Weekend for Engaged Couples Founders Room, Classrooms

**Pastoral Staff:**

Rev. Timothy J. Hickey, C.S.Sp., Pastor  
 Rev. Thomas Tunney, C.S.Sp., Associate Pastor  
 Rev. Joseph Nangle, OFM, Ministerio Latino  
 Christina Kozyn, Parish Office Administrator  
 Katie Remedios, Religious Education Director  
 Michelle Knight, Social Justice & Outreach Minister  
 Mike Sheehan, Youth & Young Adult Minister



**Email Addresses:**

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 Youth & Young Adult Minister/Mike: [mshsheehan@olqpva.org](mailto:mshsheehan@olqpva.org)

**Marriage Preparation:**

Please contact Fr. Tim at least six months prior to your wedding date.

**Reconciliation:**

Saturdays - 5 PM and by appointment

**Baptism:**

Please contact the office at [office@olqpva.org](mailto:office@olqpva.org) or call 703-979-5580 for preparation arrangements and the upcoming schedule.

**Mass Schedule:**

Weekdays Monday through Friday - 12 Noon  
 Saturdays - 5:30 PM Vigil  
 Sundays - 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:15 AM & 1:00 PM (Spanish)  
 6 PM Young Adult Mass

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[www.olqpva.org](http://www.olqpva.org)