



## 6th Annual Peace Mass in Tompkins County

By Ann Marie Eckert, Pastoral Associate, St. Catherine of Siena, Ithaca

The parishes and campus ministries of Tompkins County celebrated their sixth annual Peace Mass on September 19 at Immaculate Conception Parish in Ithaca. This event was started as a response to the United Nations International Day of Peace, providing a way for the parishes and campuses of our area to join our prayers together for a more peaceful world.

One of the benefits of the Peace Mass is that it gives all the Catholic communities of our area a chance to work together on a common project. Through organizational meetings and small group work, parishioners and staff members for the Ithaca area parishes and campuses get to know each other better, discuss peace and justice issues, and look for ways to engage the Catholic community in thinking about, praying for, and acting on peace and justice issues.

About one hundred and eighty Catholics gathered for the Mass, with Fr. Jeffrey Tunnicliff presiding and Fr. Carsten Martensen, S.J. as homilist. Fr. Carsten did a wonderful job of challenging the participants with stories of his personal involvement in protesting against the Vietnam War and how one of his mentors taught him the value of non-violence in the midst of that protest.

He urged us to strive for internal peace and then to support efforts that work towards non-violent means to end conflicts—locally, nationally, and internationally. The Mass also featured a combined choir with singers and musicians from several parishes, directed by Gary Vrabel, music director at Immaculate Conception and Sherry Scanza, music director at St. Catherine of Siena. Additionally, participants were treated to songs provided by a combined youth choir, who sang a prelude and communion reflection.

Immaculate Conception hosted a reception following the Mass that gave participants an opportunity to talk with each other, enjoy refreshments, and acquire information about peace and justice initiatives in our area. Additionally, there were T-shirts available with a peace dove and the words from Pope Paul VI, "If you want peace, work for justice." These were sold in support of the Justice & Peace Ministry program of Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga which coordinates the Peace Mass for our parishes/campuses.

This year we also gathered on Wednesday, September 24 for a discussion titled

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### Welcome new and recently moved Pastoral Associates and Ministers!

- Anthony Klosterman** to Holy Trinity in Webster
- Elizabeth Kwiatkowski** to St. Rita in Webster
- Mike Miller** to St. Katharine Drexel in Macedon
- Dcn. Frank Pettrone** to St. Mark's in Greece
- Dcn. Bill Rabjohn** to St. John the Evangelist in Spencerport
- Dcn. David Squilla** to St. Lawrence in Greece

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“Peacemaking, Inside and Out.” This discussion engaged about twenty participants in listening to speeches about violence and peacemaking from Pope Francis, Pope Paul VI, Thomas Merton, and Martin Luther King, Jr. These videos were produced at St. Catherine of Siena’s International Peace Festival—inviting individuals attending the peace festival to read a portion of one of the speeches. These were all recorded and spliced together to create a video of a speech, spoken through a variety of voices, genders, nationalities, and ages. The participants found the speeches to be powerful, both because of the words and the variety of speakers, and the discussions that followed were challenging, respectful, and thought-provoking.

This joint effort of All Saints, Holy Cross, St. Anthony, St. James, St. Catherine of Siena, Immaculate Conception, Cornell Catholic Community, and Ithaca College Campus Ministry, in collaboration with the Justice & Peace Ministry of Catholic Charities, is a blessing to our community.



#### **Pastoral Associates’/Pastoral Ministers’ Association Executive Committee**

##### **Amy Voll**

St. John of Rochester, Fairport

##### **August Misiurewicz**

Peace of Christ, Rochester

##### **Cathy Kamp**

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##### **Betsy McDermott**

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##### **Karen Rinefierd**

Coordinator of Leadership Formation for  
Parishes  
St. Bernard’s School of Theology & Ministry

## **Parents with Young Children Network**

By Sue Howard, Pastoral Associate,  
Blessed Sacrament, St. Boniface, Rochester

**H**ow do we engage young families who have children under the age of 4? If you’ve raised a family you already know the challenges of bathing, dressing, feeding, one child or more! Then you are bundling them in coats and car seats with treats and toys to keep them quiet. It never fails that someone is sick, or was up all night and then for some unknown reason one of them gets fussy-Whew! If you are fortunate to have a church with architecture that allows for a crying room or nursing room you are lucky. If not, I think one of the best things we can do is offer compassion and understanding. A light hearted, “Good Morning” and “Let me help you with the coats” can go a long way to having people feel welcome and wanted. We also offer Sunday coloring and story booklets on the Gospel story of the day.

A few times a year we offer a social program so that the families who will eventually be shepherding their children to first communion prep.

and religious education programs can get to know one another. They trade stories about day care, preschools, home schooling, public and private schools, and share ideas about places to go that are child friendly. One of our social events is an open gym time where the kids can just run around and kick beach balls, play on a rug with trucks and toys, color or work on a craft. The parents bring drinks and desserts and we order a pizza. Easy as pie! We also hold a Harvest Lunch on a Sunday after Church or early on a Saturday night. Families bring a casserole or vegetable, dessert and beverages and we do a Thanksgiving craft.

By far one of our most successful events is the Fall Train Ride at the NY Museum of Transportation in Rush [www.rgvrrm.org/visit](http://www.rgvrrm.org/visit). It’s just the perfect length for little ones (about half an hour with a break in between). There are box cars to explore, a telegraph station and a huge model train

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## **Notes from the Harvest**

- ⇒ The Assumption (Fairport) staff will try to gather together weekly to pray silently for peace in front of the Blessed Sacrament.
- ⇒ Also at Assumption we are engaging the topic of discipleship through 6 new scripture based faith sharing groups this fall called “Good News People: Bringing Hope in Hard Times”.
- ⇒ Immaculate Conception in Ithaca is busy with 3 new programs: Adult Faith Formation on 20th Century Saints with DVDs and discussion, new team/parishioner approach to RCIA and an enhanced Mass of Remembrance in November. We will now have programs for those who attend, a choir in addition to a cantor, and we will include a “Ceremony of Light” before Mass in addition to the reverent reading of the names of the deceased after the homily.
- ⇒ As a result of a survey of parishioners of St. Benedict (Canandaigua and East Bloomfield) the parish began a ‘Living Faith’ initiative. This initiative is designed to help people: know God more intimately, love God more deeply, and serve God more actively. ‘Living Faith’ is not another program you have to attend, but a different way of being church.

## Journey of Service

By Priscila De Jesús. Pastoral Minister for St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Parish

My name is Priscila De Jesús. I have been the pastoral minister at St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Parish since May of 2007. I love every part of my ministry because it involves helping people in their faith lives and being a support when it matters.

My position began at Holy Redeemer/St. Francis Xavier Church. I received my bachelor's degree from Catholic University of Puerto Rico in Elementary Education. I completed my master's degree at the University of Buffalo in Bilingual Education. I was a graduate of the Hispanic Apostolate Institute's 3-year program at St. Bernard's School of Theology. I also enrolled in theology classes while my husband was on track to complete the diaconate program. This experience has given me good preparation to provide bible study sessions, Baptism and Pre-Cana preparation classes.

My prior work experience includes working as a Summer School principal for the Brockport Migrant Education Project. I also worked for ten

years as the coordinator of the Foster Care/Adoption program at Ibero American Action League. At the latter, I gained social work experience which has helped me to advocate for and understand the social/emotional needs of the parishioners and community members we serve.

I love every part of my ministry because it involves helping people in their faith lives and being a support when it matters.

It has also allowed me to get to know the service providers and agency personnel in order to make appropriate referrals. When I first arrived in Rochester, I worked as a bilingual substitute for four years at the Rochester City School District.

During the seven years working in the church, in addition to the sacramental support and visiting the sick

and leading bible studies, I am most proud of some fruitful ministries that I helped to start. The first is one of our evangelization activities known as

'Young at Heart'. This is for those 55 and older that get together for spiritual and social events. Another is our Annual Community Day Event, which draws over 300 people in the local community for food, fun activities and education about resources. Others include advocacy for undocumented immigrants, translation help, the establishment of a liturgical dancing group and our transportation ministry to help people get to Mass.

My goal is to continue to provide spiritual and emotional assistance to the community at St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Parish. I believe in strong collaboration with church personnel and members of the community in order to provide quality service so that the parishioners and I can continue to progress in our faith.



Priscila De Jesús

### Prayer Circle

Pray for peace around the world, especially in places where there are wars, acts of terrorism and violent uprisings.

### Interesting facts about our Parishes:

#### 2013/2014

Most weddings: St. Benedict in Canandaigua with 40

Most funerals: St. Kateri Tekawitha with 198

First parish to reach the 2013/2014 CMA goal: Blessed Trinity in Wolcott

Number of parishes that made their CMA goal: 28

Greatest participation in CMA: Holy Apostles with 54%

Average participation rate for CMA is 28%

Percentage of parishes without specified Pastoral Associate or Minister: 33%



## Dates of Interest

### 2014

Month of November	<b>National Family Caregivers Month</b>
Tuesday, Nov. 18	<b>"A Day to Call Your Own"</b> . Personal day of prayer and retreat. Mercy Spirituality Center, Also Thursdays Dec. 18 and Jan. 22. Call (585) 473-6414 for details.
Tuesday, Nov. 18	7 pm. <b>'Dorothy Soelle: Woman of Peace in a Troubled World'</b> Presenter Dr. Nancy Hawkins, IHM. Mercy Center, 1437 Blossom Rd. Call (585) 473-6414 for details.
Wednesday, Nov. 19	<b>"The Gifts and Pitfalls of the Internet"</b> . 7:00-8:30 pm, SSJ Motherhouse, 150 French Rd. Pittsford. For more information, please call 585-641-8184.
Thursday, Nov. 27	<b>Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration</b> at Temple Beth 'El, 139 South Winton Rd., Rochester.

### 2015

Saturday, March 28	<b>Women's Conference.</b> Aquinas Institute. More details to follow.
Tuesday, June 23	<b>Ministerium.</b> Helen M. Alvare, Professor of Law, George Mason University Topic: Poverty and the New Evangelization: Ministry in America's Catholic Parishes More details to follow.

Ongoing course offerings at St. Bernard's School of Theology & Ministry website: <http://www.stbernards.edu/>

## Newsletter

We are delighted to print articles, meditations, parish stories, prayer requests, journey sharings or questions from pastoral associates/ministers of all parishes and ministries in the Rochester Diocese. The wealth of ministry experience is truly mind blowing and inspiring. Please submit ideas and contributions as often as possible to Betsy McDermott at [bmcdermott@dor.org](mailto:bmcdermott@dor.org) or call 585-328-3228, ext. 1287.

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display. It's really more interesting for the Dad's and Grandpa's and that's why it's so successful-- the whole family comes! On our last visit we were able to draw on the readings from the Mass on Sunday to highlight how the volunteers who make this museum possible receive their passion as a fruit of their faith. That God gives us so much more than we need that there is always some left over. This overflowing grace and love is what we can give to others.

Another benefit to this outing and others we have organized is that the children see people from the Church outside of Mass. Gone are the days that everyone lives in the same neighborhood or goes to the same schools and

shops. Our sense of community is strengthened when we see each other outside of Mass and when we see people from our Church living their faith out in the world. One little three year old bluntly said "What are YOU doing here?" I responded with something like this...., "I care about you whether you are in Church or out in the world because that is where God is too". Who knows if he understood, but I was so glad he noticed!

If you would like to talk more about programs and strategies for engaging Parents with Young Children drop me a line, I'd be glad to share ideas!

Sue Howard, Pastoral Associate,  
Blessed Sacrament and St. Boniface  
Churches

**Check out the new  
website for:**

**Youth Ministry**

Roman Catholic Diocese of  
Rochester

<http://youth.dor.org/>

Find information on retreats, events,  
CYO, resources for catechesis, and  
much more!