

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church

Parish in Paradise



Newsletter

November 2019

ISSUE 14

We Give Thanks
to God!

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✦ From the desk of the pastor

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Jesus:

It is with great joy I welcome you to his beautiful Advent season. The joy of being Catholic is that the church carves out time within the church's year to prepare us for Christ's coming.

We are constantly reminded that we are created, wounded and redeemed.

In His love, He created us in His image and likeness.

Psalms 139:13 says, "for you formed my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb." We are created because He wanted someone to love.

Due to original sin, we all are born wounded. "For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God," Romans 3:23.

However, thank God for His love for us.

John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life."

Jesus gives us the invitation for redemption. He made it possible. Jesus took the initiative. He makes the first step toward us. All we must do is listen to the knock and open the door of our hearts to Him.

Revelation 3:20 says, "Behold I stand at the door and knock if anyone should hear my knock and open the door, I will come in."

Brothers and sisters, Advent is that invitation to become ready to prepare ourselves for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

In Christ,

Fr. Anthony Abraham, Pastor

2019 Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal St. Thomas-St. John held its 2019 conference from Nov. 15 to 17, 2019, at the Holy Family Columban Hall. The theme was "Pray Unceasingly," based on 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. The guest speakers were Fr. Louis Merosne from Haiti and Kent Vincent from Guyana. The weekend included testimonies, talks, confession, Mass and lots more. Attendees came from Tortola, Guyana, St. Thomas and St. John.



EARTH program

In 2010, Iowa State University established the EARTH Program that is funded by St. John residents Martha and Dana Robes.



^ Bidding farewell to our beloved soup kitchen staff before departing back to Iowa.

The goal is to educate Iowa State University students and the U.S. Virgin Islands communities about agriculture, the environment, and food and nutrition, while creating inspiring and productive educational programs and garden and landscape demonstrations, to benefit the U.S. Virgin Islands, Iowa, and the world.

Gifft Hill School was our first partner where gardens were started at both the upper and lower campus to develop an outdoor classroom where teachers and students in grades K-12 could learn about plants and where their food comes from.

Since then, the ISU EARTH Program has expanded its school garden program to include Julius E. Sprauve School and the Moravian School at Nisky on St. Thomas.

The University of the Virgin Islands Extension Service has also developed a strong partnership with ISU EARTH in the area of food safety. Lillian Nabwirre is an ISU graduate student from Uganda who is working with UVI Extension to develop food safety standards and training information specifically for Virgin Islands restaurants and farmers to make the food you consume safer.

Education has been a natural partner since the time we arrived but as ISU EARTH became more familiar with the St. John community, there seemed to be a good fit with some of the community partners and initiatives.

Our first partner in that arena was the OLMC Soup Kitchen (now Catholic Charities). In 2015 we

approached Simonia Dagou about having our college interns volunteer in the kitchen over Thanksgiving. Since then, ISU EARTH interns have worked each week assist in preparing meals for the soup kitchen from fresh vegetables they grow in the ISU EARTH Gardens.

It has been a true blessing and amazing experience for our college kids from Iowa to be welcomed and accepted into the Catholic Charity family. Michael Jackson, Annette Smith, Simonia, Father Anthony

Abraham and all the many women in the kitchen have made a profound effect on these visiting minds by providing a rich and

gracious cultural exchange for our students from so far away.



← Annette Smith with vegetables from the EARTH Program

Some of our students are Catholic, some are of another faith, and some have never been to a church.

Each student keeps a daily journal and believe me, God is at work in the minds of these young people as they visit

OLMC and the EARTH Program. The remarks of one student has stayed with me and I didn't know this at the time. The student wrote "and each day we make a circle and hold hands and say a prayer... I didn't know the prayer... but now I do"

Some things just can't be taught in a classroom and that is exactly why Iowa State University is so committed to sending students to "study abroad" areas so that they can receive life changing experiences. St. John and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel are such places.

◆ Article written by Dave Minner, Iowa State University EARTH Program Coordinator

Creole Day

The St. Lucia Association of St. John held Creole Day weekend activities from Friday, Oct. 25 to Sunday, Oct. 27. A Creole Mass was held on Friday, Oct. 25. Fr. Albert Smith of St. Lucia was the celebrant. A Cultural Night was held on Saturday, Oct. 26 and Creole Day on Sunday, Oct. 27. Cultural Night activities included bingo, dominoes, music and dancing. Creole Day activities included Quadrille dancing, dominoes music, and dancing with DJ Cornelius and Cool Sessions Brass. Food native to St. Lucia were also on hand including blood pudding, roast pig, local bread, roly poly, pien me (ducana), saltfish, ground provisions and lots more.



Food and drinks were sold on both days. Some proceeds from the event benefitted the Bahamas, which was devastated by Hurricane Dorian in September.

Religious Education on the Move



^ Our young people serve at Mass on Sunday, November 23.

Thanksgiving Luncheon

Our Lady of Mount Carmel held its annual Thanksgiving luncheon on Nov. 28, 2019, at the church hall. More than 175 people were served.

People could sit and eat or take the food to go. Music was provided for everyone's listening pleasure.

This year's luncheon was sponsored by the Westin Resort and Villas.

Many parishioners and people in the community came to set up, serve and clean up for the luncheon.

Thank you again to the Westin Resort and to all who made the luncheon a success.



Obituary — John Cozza

+ Aug. 23, 1958–Sept. 21, 2019 +

John Cozza, age 61 of Pittsburgh, died unexpectedly on Saturday, Sept. 21, 2019, while working in the US Virgin Islands. He was a loving son, devoted husband, proud father, true friend, Emmaus brother and child of God.

John is survived by his wife, Rebecca; his daughter, Marissa; and numerous dear cousins.

He is preceded in death by his mother, Anna Mae Cozza (Miller); his father, Ralph J. Cozza; his father-in-law, William E. Sigler; his mother-in-law, Patricia B. Sigler; his godmother, Marie Cicco Hramika; and his aunt, Maria Abbruzzese.

John was born in Pittsburgh on Aug. 23, 1958. He attended St. Bernard's and South Hills Catholic schools. He completed the Carpenters' Apprenticeship Program and became a proud member of Local Union 142.

As the quintessential Pittsburgh Dad, John loved the Penguins and the Steelers, and he tolerated the Pirates. His weeks old daughter sat on his lap watching the Penguins win the 1992 Stanley Cup, sparking her own love for the sport. After Super Bowl and Stanley Cup victories, John drove his

truck around Pittsburgh, cheering and honking his horn. John loved his city, his local community and his church. He generously donated his time and labor to build several playgrounds in the South Hills area.

He was an active member of St. Thomas More Parish, serving through The Walk to Emmaus and The Gathering of Catholic Men. Skilled in his trade, John's work was instrumental in several local building projects, including Parkway Center Mall, Century Three Mall, Shadyside Hospital, Somerset Prison, The Civic Arena, Port Authority projects, and Plum High School.

John was part of the DCK Worldwide family since 2011 playing a key role in major projects including constructing the first hospital in Tortola, British Virgin Islands and rebuilding and renovating resorts damaged by hurricanes. Most recently, he served as general superintendent at the Ritz Carlton in Great Bay, St. Thomas, USVI.

Wherever John worked, he always found a vibrant Catholic community that embraced him. John had recently partnered with Father Anthony Abraham and Our Lady of Mount Carmel in St. John to build the parish's first chapel.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Oct. 4, 2019, at the St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 126 Fort Couch Road, Pittsburgh, PA.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made in John's honor to *Our Lady of Mount Carmel* or *Catholic Charities*. Checks can be made payable to Our Lady of Mount Carmel; in the memo line, please note "Coral Bay Chapel." Donations can be mailed to P.O. Box 241, St. John U.S. Virgin Islands 00831-0241.



MARCH FOR LIFE 2020

January 24, 2020 | Washington, D.C.

Youths from the Diocese of St. Thomas will be traveling to D.C in January to march for the lives of the unborn from January 19th - 27th.

Would you like to sponsor a youth so that they can attend the annual March for Life? Sponsorship is \$1,500.00.

**Make checks payable to: Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church
(memo line: March for Life)**

**Anyone is welcomed to join. If interested or for any questions, contact
Jovanna Laurencin at (470)494-4376**



The Diocesan Youth Ministry in collaboration with the Religious Education groups from the various parishes will hold a Christmas Concert on December 15, 2019, at 3 p.m. at Columban Hall at Holy Family Church. There will be performances by the Holy Family Children's Choir, The Holy Family Cultural Dance Group and many more. Food items will be on sale. Adult tickets are \$10 and children ages 12 and under are \$5. Tickets are on sale in church offices.

The OLMC Parish in Paradise Newsletter is composed by Fr. Anthony Abraham, Simonia Dagou, Lisa Etre and Brenda Rector Wallace.

To submit an article or for questions regarding OLMC Newsletter please contact: Lisa Etre by email at: olmc@hotmail.com

Graphic Design: Julie Vazquez

DEVOTIONS:

Eucharistic Adoration Daily: 24 hours a day

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays at 5 p.m.; after Masses; or by appointment

Baptism: By Appointment; 3 weeks preparation

Weddings: By Appointment; 6 months preparation

Regular Mass Schedule

Weekend

Saturdays: 6 p.m.

Sundays: 7:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m.
5:45 p.m. (Spanish)

Weekdays: Sats at 10 a.m.

Tuesdays & Weds at 6 p.m.

Thurs & Fridays at 7 a.m.



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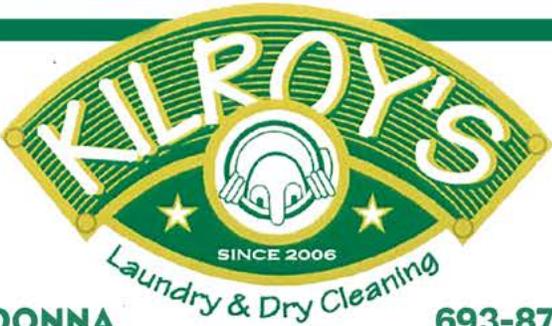
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