



Mary Immaculate Herald

Mary Immaculate Parish Newsletter

Parishioner Creates Another Work of Art

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Don Nichols has been a member of the parish since 1961. His latest stained glass pieces, "Wedding at Cana", is located in the Bridal Room of the church.

Don & Mary Nichols have been Mary Immaculate parishioners since 1961. Mary taught at MIS for (28) years. Five of their children attended MIS.

The Wedding at Cana project took about 15 months from concept to installation. Finding a doable picture, converting to proper size and design suitable for stained glass assembly, deciding on the type of glass that would be pleasing to view with or without back lighting, and selling the concept to Father Michael took time. My stained glass mentor said that the design would not work using conventional lead and zinc techniques. She suggested fusing the individual pieces of glass to a larger piece of background glass instead of leading. When Father saw the Photo Shop altered picture he gave his OK and I was off and running.

The next challenge was creating the folds and shadows in their garments. My mentor introduced me to fritting. Using self created templates I carefully deposited powder fine glass of different color and thicknesses on the garment shaped pieces and fired to 1250-1485 degrees. My first firings were a disaster. My old ceramic kiln was not accurate enough. This problem was solved by buying an electronically controlled glass kiln.

By Christmas week the Mary and Jesus window was ready for final firing. During Christmas week I received word that the firing was complete. Mary and I went to bring it home. It looked great but when I picked it up and put it on the carrier to transport there was a distinct PING! It had cracked and was a total loss. Mary and I stood in shock. My mentor decided that the single sheet background glass (1/8") was over stressed and that next time we should use double strength glass (1/4"). Father looked at the cracked partial picture and was OK with everything except for Mary and Jesus' eyes. In retrospect they were pretty bad. At this point it was decided that the project was going into two windows.

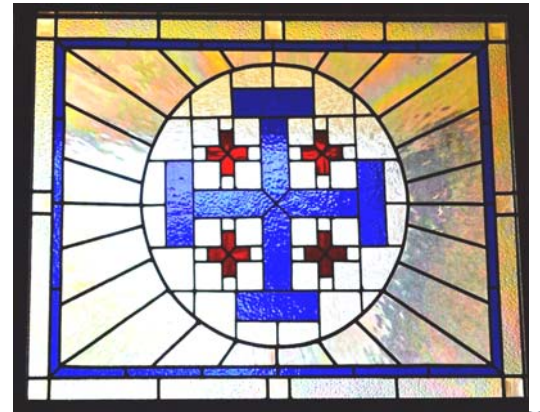
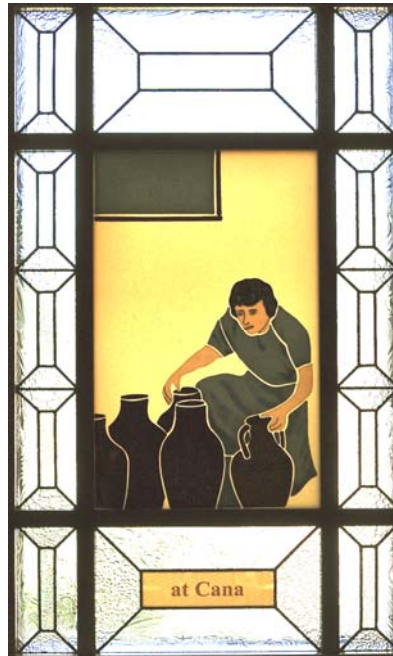
Extra water jars were added in order to reflect the biblical account and a window border and sky were added to reflect daylight hours. These were split between the two windows to tie both halves of the picture together. The 2nd window with the servant was successfully fired on double strength background. After three more attempts to produce satisfactory faces, the other half was successfully fired. Each of these firings reached 1485 degrees and took in excess of 24 hours.

Parishioner Creates Another Work of Art

With an exact size now known for the center pieces, Jerry Murawski was able to convert my rough sketches into furniture quality frames. The border glass and design was created to let light in but because of the glass textures provide privacy for the bride. The patterns are mirror images of each other. They all went into place without a problem. From day one I prayed daily for the ability to complete this project. My wife Mary provided suggestions and a ton of encouragement!



Wedding at Cana, located in the church Bridal Room



Above:
Jerusalem
Cross in
school art
room



Right: Christ
praying at
Gethsemane
located in
Rectory
chapel

Message From Pastor



Dear Parishioners,

I pray that you all had a wonderful summer and that you had a chance to get away from some of this Texas heat!

This year we welcome our new school principal, Mr. Matt Krause, to Mary Immaculate School. Matt comes to us from St. Rita Catholic School where he served as the Assistant Principal for the past nine years. He and his wife, Jill and their three children, live in Farmers Branch and attend Mass at Mary Immaculate.

Also, this year we are blessed again in the priestly vocation department!

First of all, we have one of our own parishioners, Jose Salazar, who has been accepted into the Carmelite Religious Order to study for the priesthood. Jose is an active parishioner. He will be studying in Mexico for the next several years and, God willing, will be ordained to the priesthood.

Second of all, we have another Pastoral Year seminarian that will be formed and trained at Mary Immaculate. His name is Ivan Asencio, and he will start Sept 6. He's originally from Puerto Rico so he's bilingual. Please join me in welcoming Ivan and help form him in the image and likeness of Christ.

God bless you all,

Fr. Michael

Family Life: Conversion



Cyndi Lucky is a Mary Immaculate parishioner.

This year marks the 4th anniversary of (2) huge developments in my life. One was my son Jay's graduation and Confirmation at Mary

Immaculate, which was when God grabbed me in a place no mother can deny, in the HEART!

I was raised Baptist, but after a LONG separation from church and even God, I was introduced to the Catholic faith by my children's fathers' family some (20) years ago. When we married and our first was born, I happily agreed to raise him Catholic, as I also did when our daughter was born. Graciously, the monsignor at St. Mary's in League City baptized both children with Catholic godparents, a Catholic dad and one Catholic mother, a term that was bestowed upon me years ago by my Protestant friends!

I tried at that point to convert, but as soon as the nun teaching RCIA hit the Sacrament of Marriage, both of us having divorces, I quickly conceded to remain Catholic. Then I divorced the kids' dad, and had another marriage that failed miserably before that Confirmation Service in May of 2006.

Over the years at Mary Immaculate, I got to know Prici very well through the EDP program, and she had told me plenty of times she'd see me through the annulment process. I'd participated at Mass on Fridays for school when my kids were involved in the liturgy, received ashes with them on Ash Wednesday, and was somewhat saddened by not being able to participate in Communion with them, especially during their First Holy Communion. But after my son's Confirmation, there was NO turning back. This was it and I knew it was time. It was much later that I acknowledged God was the one who was "yanking my chain" telling me that my son's heart was in a better place than my own. I went to Prici and she gladly helped me get the ball rolling.

The second milestone was being received into the Church at Easter Vigil 2007. My annulment was final the following Fall. One of the most important transfigurations for me personally during the annulment process was the enlightenment that God spoke to me what was missing from my marriages – and that there was an awesome pot of gold at the end of that rainbow!

The Tribunal determined my marriages were not valid, but I had already come to that conclusion filling out the documents. The one thing missing from them that I'd never realized was God. I am so thankful now for that process, what it gave me and the relationship it stirred between God and me, and what it gave me to make sure I knew what God wanted for me in marriage.

I am now married for the first time it feels like, and we are on a spiritual journey together, trying our best to grow in relationship to each other, God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, and be disciples through our marriage also. Fr. Michael convalidated our marriage in May 2009. God brought me to the Catholic Church, Mary Immaculate, and has blessed me more than most people can even imagine. When people, especially my Protestant friends who had to fill out questions for the Tribunal, ask me "Why do you have to do this for the Catholic Church?" I tell them, "It's about reflection and enlightenment. It is not for the Catholic Church, it is for ME, and worth every minute."

Meet the Family



The Ducks have lived at Mary Immaculate for ten years. Each year the mother brings her new ducklings to live on the Church grounds.

Dallas Diocesan Senior Council—Mary Immaculate Keenagers

The Diocesan Senior Council was organized in 1969 by Sister Lois Bannon, OSU, and Marion Cole, CSW in response to the needs and concerns of our senior members of the Diocese. They wanted to unite and form a visible, structured organization to be open to all seniors in the diocese; to initiate a plan of organized involvement for the aging.

The first organizational meeting was held at Holy Trinity Church, later moving to Ursuline Academy to accommodate the large attendance. Rev. William Blakeslee was appointed Diocesan Moderator by our Bishop Thomas Tschope in 1971. Hazel Lynch, St. Monica and Sister Mary Eugenia, OSU, were coordinators. Senior clubs were implemented in the various parishes and meetings were held quarterly at the Diocesan level.

The Diocesan Senior Council was formed in 1973 to be the governing body, with the support of our Bishop. Our Motto is: The Three S's: Spiritual, Service, Social. The Patron Saint of the Seniors is Santa Teresa de Jesus Jornet, proclaimed on September 2, 1982 by bishop Thomas Tschoepe.

Attending meetings is a form of spirituality. We visit with each other at our meetings in a Catholic environment. Seniors today enjoy a better quality of life than ever before. One of the ways to sustain that quality calls for being involved in many social occasions. Communicating with people as often as possible and developing new friendship with seniors from other parishes helps seniors achieve the goal of being active in our communities.

and now!



The Keenagers meet on the 2nd Monday of the month September through May. Meetings start at 12:30 with a covered dish lunch, meeting and some form of entertainment. Present officers: President-Anna Abner, Vice President-Barbara White, Secretary-Jo Peeples Dallas Diocesan Representative-Lorraine Walsdorf and Treasurer- Lois Lescovitz

We encourage you to be part of this wonderful opportunity to come together in love and concern for our fellow Catholics—to follow what Jesus asks of us: to serve Him all the days of our lives. We do this by serving at the meetings and taking responsibility as officers.

Then,



The Senior Ministry group was named the *Keenagers* by Dan Dennis, who organized the group in the mid-eighties.

Each Senior in the Diocese is automatically a member of the Diocesan Seniors. The President of each parish club is a member of the Council Board which is the governing body of the Seniors in the Diocese. The Senior National Research Commission in Washington, D.C states that

Americans will live well into their nineties in the next ten years. Being part of the Diocesan Seniors gives us a sense of belonging to a group that exists to further our quality of life as we live longer and longer.

Every June the Council hosts a 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration for couples in the Diocese are celebrating fifty or more years of marriage. The celebration consists of a Mass by the Bishop, reception and dance. In addition they will receive a cross and picture. This is provided free to the couples and they may invite their immediate family.

Serra Prayer for Vocations

O God, Who wills not the death of a sinner, but rather that he be converted and live, grant we beseech You through the intercession of the Blessed Mary, ever Virgin, Saint Joseph, her spouse, Blessed Junipero Serra, and all the saints, an increase of laborers for your Church, fellow laborers with Christ to spend and consume themselves for souls, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

Fr. Michael honored with Serra Club Award



On, June 18, Fr. Michael Forge was honored by the Serra Club of Metropolitan Dallas. He was presented with their highest award, the Bob Hoch Award (formerly the Junipero Serra Award). This award is given to a priest or religious who has exhibited outstanding dedication in promoting vocations. Father Michael attended the luncheon with his father, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Gene Forge, newly ordained priest Fr. John Szatkowski, and

parishioner Carol Young.

Fr. Michael was nominated for the award this spring by Carol's father, Don Krusemark, long-time member of the club. Mr. Krusemark worked with Fr. Michael at Holy Trinity Seminary in the past and remembered his dedication and enthusiasm for the seminarians there. He was also moved by the close relationship between the children at Mary Immaculate School and Fr. Michael. Mr. Krusemark witnessed this bond at school masses and other events he attended for his grandkids. He felt strongly that Fr. Michael was promoting vocations the minute the children walked through the doors of Mary Immaculate School by the dedication and devotion he demonstrated. The ultimate selection for the award was made by the Club Board of Trustees.

Congratulations, Fr. Michael, and thank you for all you do to promote vocations by your actions and example at Mary Immaculate and throughout the Dallas area!

Fr. John introduced Fr. Michael to the club. He shared with them the wonderful job Fr. Michael is doing leading all the children and members of our parish on their spiritual journey. He also shared some funny memories of his times here at Mary Immaculate with Fr. Michael. It was a special blessing to have Lt. Col. (Ret.) Gene Forge there to witness his son being recognized for his work for the Kingdom of God.

Mary Immaculate Rosary Group



Mary Immaculate Rosary Group visits the Emeritus Assisted facility the 2nd Friday of every month, to pray the rosary.

Earline Mages distributes communion to the residents.

"..one of the startling realities is that 70% of Catholics in America do not attend Church on Sundays, and it is a reality amongst our students as well."

Kelli Simon

To learn more, attend the informational meeting:

Wednesday,
August 18 —
7 pm—
Parish Hall

Hear about how you can get involved. I look forward to meeting with you!

Contact me at:
kellis@maryimmaculatechurch.org
972-243-7104 ext 31.

Greetings from the Youth Office



In October 2009, I moved to Dallas from Lafayette, LA (Cajun Country) and began working full time to coordinate the public school Confirmation

Program here at Mary Immaculate. What an honor it is to be here, to be a part of such a life giving, diverse, and friendly community!

With over 400 students in our program, I soon realized that our young people needed more mentors. They needed someone to give them their undivided attention, maybe play a game with them, or just listen to their stories. With the help of the parish staff and other active volunteers, we recruited over (35) mentors to support us until we completed the year. Together, we prepared over (200) students for the Sacrament of Confirmation. After the Ceremony, we invited the students to get involved in the parish, over (70) students responded with a "Yes"!

Through the mentors, it is crystal clear that the students have been touched in an unforgettable way. A BIG thank you to all who gave your time, talent, and support.

With the help of the Holy Spirit, we are transforming lives, empowering our young people with life-long skills, and providing a deeper understanding of the greatest phenomenon that has ever walked the face of the earth – our Savior Jesus Christ. As we know, He has already changed the world.

We are called to re-tell the story in our words and in everyday lives. By actively living and sharing our faith, we are watching our students be transformed by having more knowledge of Him, a new personal connection to Him and to their home here at Mary Immaculate.

We are off to a great start, however one of the startling realities is that 70% of Catholics in America do not attend Church on Sundays, and it is a reality amongst our students as well. This alarming rate will continue to increase unless we, who know and love our Catholic faith, reach out and do something! ***If not us, then who?***

We are in the process of recruiting and forming our new youth ministry teams that will focus on the strengths, interests, and time commitments of our volunteers. As our Mary Immaculate logo says, "Be a Light to the Nations". Our students are desperately searching for someone to be their light. Will you agree to allow it be you for 8 months?

The great news is this ministry is a place where every gift, every talent, every age, every background, and every smile is needed and very much welcomed! You will meet new people, you will be given an opportunity to make a contribution of yourself in whatever way you wish. You may even learn something new. We all need someone to provide a "light" for us at some point along our life journey.

"..and how can they believe in him, of whom they have not heard? How can they hear of him without someone to preach?..."

Romans 10:14

Ministry Spot Light : Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary is a lay apostolic association of Catholics who, with the sanction of the Church and under the powerful leadership of Mary Immaculate, Mediatrix of All Graces, serves the Church. The first parish group started meeting in 1992, and now they have approximately (50) active members.

We have two groups: Preasidium Maria Inmaculada with Sergio Ramirez as President and Carmen Perez as Vice-President; and Preasidium María Auxiliadora whose President is Wilfredo Acevedo and Vice-President is Juan Nogales. Families attend the meetings with their children. The Legion of Mary meets every Thursday evening at the school.



Mrs. Carmen Perez, an active member since 2003, has been Vice-President of the group since last May and has been a member of the parish for (29) years. She is married to Francisco Esparza and they have five children. The group was a blessing for Mrs. Perez when they visited her home; especially because her family was going through a crisis at the time. Thanks to this ministry's help her family overcame the crisis and she realized how important the Catholic Church was for her, what it means to be a practicing Catholic and the importance of Mass. Through the Bible and her testimony she has helped other families to come back to the Church and become active participants.

Mrs. Perez referred to the Legion of Mary not only as soldiers of an army but also as shepherd's helpers, who assist in gathering, guiding and taking the sheep's to the pen. She is also an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Eucharist because it is an honor for her to bring the body of Christ to the sick.



Members of the Legion of Mary visit hospitals, jails, homes, pray the rosary, attend novenas for the deceased or whatever is needed by the community. They are a great support group for the community 'in good times and in bad times'. Mrs. Perez shared a couple of phrases that are very important to her in this Ministry: "Do as He says" John 2:5 and "If God is with us, nobody can be against us" If you need additional information or if you are interested in becoming a member of the Legion, please call Sergio Ramirez at (817) 819-2902.

Upcoming Parish Events



Saturday, October 9, 2010 Mary Immaculate Annual Fall Festival

Your Fall Festival Committee has already been hard at work getting this year's event organized and we would love to have you on our committee. Festival committees include: entertainment, games, food, security, setup, volunteer to work at festival, baskets, tear down. We also need an electrician for consultation purposes. If you'd like to be a part of the fun please contact Anne Baum ~ anne.baum@live.com or Sue Grady ~ sosbfl@yahoo.com. Let's make this the best festival yet!

UNDER THE BIG TOP RAFFLE TICKETS are already on sale for \$5 each for 5 for \$20! This year's prizes are: 1st - \$4,500 in AMEX Gift Cards, 2nd - \$3,500 in AMEX Gift Cards, 3rd - \$2,000 in AMEX Gift Cards and 4th - an Apple iPad. Tickets are available for purchase at the church office or after all Saturday and Sunday masses.

Once again this year, we will have our carnival preview on **Friday, October 8th from 6—9 pm**. For \$15 you will have unlimited rides for up to 3 hours! We will also have pizza and drinks available for purchase.

Fall Festival Baskets

This year's Fall Festival is going to be amazing – great fun, great food and great fellowship! Our Basket Prize Wheel will be in full force with some great changes: less numbers on the wheel so greater chances for you to win! No more gathering up paddles, so we can keep spinning all day without delay! And, the prize baskets will each have a theme. Here's just a few: Texas! Beach Fun, Family Game Night, Christmas ,Car Care, Let's Golf!, I love my Pet!, Coffee time , Pamper Me! Plus dozens more! We'd love your ideas, too! If you want to donate a themed basket, please sign up in the parish Narthex after masses in August, or drop your basket off at the Church office during office hours! Don't want to donate an entire basket, but need ideas for donations? Call Prici Mahaffey at 972-243-7104 ext 26 or Kris Baginski at 214-929-9548 or Beth Crouch at 262-510-1165 .

August Parish Events

- **August 1—Donut Sunday**
After 7:30 & 10:30 masses Conf Room
- **August 5—Movie Night—St. John Bosco** 6:30 pm in School Library
- **August 15—RCIA Inquiry—8:30 am**
Conf Rm
- **August 19—Movie Night—Padre Pio Part 1** 6:30 pm in School Library

- **August 21—Ice Cream Social**
After 5:00 mass in Parish Hall
- **August 28—The Shepherd's Café**
7 pm Adoration-Church, 8 pm Band
- **August 28 & 29 — Time & Talent Week-end**
After all masses in the Narthex

Visit www.maryimmaculatechurch.org for upcoming events