

WE JUST WANT TO SAY "THANK YOU" TO YOU ALL!

The story all began in the spring of 1957 when the then Pastor, Father Duggan, began a campaign to raise funds to help build a Parish School, a Convent and an Auditorium, on Saw Mill River Road between Palmer Road and Roosevelt Street. A year later, in the spring of 1958, the building housing the School, Convent and Auditorium (Parish Center) was completed. On September 6, 1958, St. Bartholomew's School opened its doors to receive the first group of students. The Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary were entrusted with the responsibility of staffing the School.

Since its inception the school has graduated over one thousand students. Aside from the Presentation sisters, many pastors, associate pastors and many lay people have over the years, donated their time, talents and resources to serving the children and parents of the school. These men and women, together with the students, parents and the parishioners, through their effort and selfless service have always created a community of love – a family of unity, which we fondly called, **St. Bart's School**.

It is sad that this community of love – a family of unity – St. Bart's School – is going to close its door to the public on June 24, 2011. The parish is going to miss the variety of services and ministries performed by the students, especially during their preparation for reception of various sacraments. Personally, I am going to miss their noise in the parking lot during lunch breaks. I am going to miss their gentle smile, laughter, the high-five handshakes, the hugs, the teasing, the pulling and pushing. I am going to miss their innocence and the atmosphere their childlike environment creates. I am going to miss the inspiration exhibited by Mr. V's dedication to his responsibilities that kept him at the school late into the nights. I am going to miss the teasing, the fun, the laughter and the *naughtiness* of my dear friend, Loretta. Like I always ask, "What will we do without her?"

But, it is not about me today. It is about the Faculty and Staff of our beloved school that is going to close in two weeks time. It is about those men and women, who stood by our parish school through thick and thin. It is about those men and women who will soon lose their jobs. It is about **Mark Valentinetti**, who has spent most of his youth and adult life at St. Bart's. For 32 years he has served our parish school as classroom teacher, drama director, language teacher, vice principal and principal. It is about **Gerry Hill**, the Art teacher who spent 31 years of her life teaching Art to our children, decorating the stage for events, dressing the children and adults with costumes, and also caring for the children in our AfterSchool program. Surely, it is about my ever-cheerful friend, **Loretta Dratch** who spent 27 years of her life grooming and caring for some of the younger boys and girls in the school – Pre-K and K. Students, parents, her colleague and those who know her acknowledged that she is always fun to be with. "What will we do without her?"

Of course, it is about my "grandma" **Gertrude Woska**, who has given 21 years of her life reading stories for the young children of our school as a librarian. It is about **Slawka Perich** who has spent twenty years at St. Bart's, teaching the children and preparing them for confirmation. It is about **Joanne Fialkovic** who has passed 15 years of her life caring for one of the youngest groups in

the school – Pre-K. It is about **Eileen Mistal** who has dedicated 15 years of her life serving our school and church selflessly as secretary and classroom substitute. It is also about **Deirdre Clarke** who has spent 9 years here at St. Bart's teaching the 4th graders. It is about **Siobhan O'Dwyer**, the 6th grade teacher, who has given 8 years to our school. She is the one who in 2005, five months after my arrival here as associate pastor, reached out to me and invited me to join her class (Class of 2008) for their class trip. On all my visits to her classroom, she would always invite me to speak to the children on any subject, especially on Religion. It is also about **Patricia Potocki** who has devotedly served our school for eight years as Pre-K aide. This is about **Tina Gioia**, our 1st grade teacher, who has devoted seven years to teaching our children.

This day is dedicated to **Melissa Armstrong** who has spent a fruitful four years teaching our 2nd grade, and working judiciously with Cheryl Duda in preparing our children for reception of the sacraments of First Reconciliation and Holy Communion. Today is all about **Patricia Hager**, our 3rd grade teacher for four years, who always volunteers to organize her class to provide music for school Masses. **Julia Braunstein**, our 7th grade teacher completes the list of the trio who joined the teaching staff of our school in 2007. Her students describe her as an excellent classroom and science teacher. This day is dedicated to **Jennifer Cannella**, our 5th grade and Mathematics teacher who has spent the last three years preparing newly promoted 4th graders to adjust to the demands of the departmental programs of upper grades.

This day is dedicated to say *thank you* to **Ted Williams**, our physical education teacher, who has dedicated the past three years to teaching our children the importance of physical education and to helping create a healthy environment within and outside our school. It is also dedicated to **Harry Blanchard**, the custodian of our school, who has been with us for the past two years. He has used that time to make sure that our students and workers have a decent environment in which to work and learn. Last, but not by any means the least, this day is dedicated to the newest addition to our school faculty, **Denise Flanagan**, the music teacher, who has filled our halls with song spending about three months with us.

Our many thanks go to all of you, our faculty and staff. We are going to miss your presence here, but we hope that you always remember the time you spent at St. Bart's. We pray that Almighty God will send His Holy Spirit upon all of you to guide and direct you in all your future endeavors. May we never fail to pray for each other. Pray also for the parishioners you are leaving behind at St. Bartholomew's Church. God bless you!



Father Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP

The Annual Parish Picnic sponsored by the Holy Name Society is scheduled for Sunday, June 26th, at St. Joseph's Seminary from 12 noon to 5 p.m. Please plan on attending this great family day.



MEETING: This Monday, June 13th, the Holy Name Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the McManus Parish Center. All men of the Parish are welcome.

PENTECOST SUNDAY



SYMBOLS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Water: The symbolism of water signifies the Holy Spirit's action in Baptism, since after the invocation of the Holy Spirit it becomes the efficacious sacramental sign of new birth.

Anointing: The symbolism of anointing with oil also signifies the Holy Spirit, to the point of becoming a synonym for the Holy Spirit.

Fire: While water signifies birth and the fruitfulness of life given in the Holy Spirit, fire symbolizes the transforming energy of the Holy Spirit's actions.

Cloud and Light: These two images occur together in the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in both Old and New Testaments.

The Seal is a symbol close to that of anointing. "The Father has set His seal" on Christ and also seals us in Him.

The Hand: Jesus heals the sick and blesses little children by laying hands on them. In His name the apostles will do the same.

The Finger: "It is by the finger of God that (Jesus) cast out demons.

The Dove: At the end of the flood, whose symbolism refers to Baptism, a dove released by Noah returns with a fresh olive-tree branch in its beak as a sign that the earth was again habitable.

Excerpt from Catechism of the Catholic Church

GREAT GIFT FOR Father's Day

FATHER'S DAY CARDS AND NOVENA: Sunday, June 19th, is Father's Day. We will have a 9-day Novena of Masses for all our fathers - living and deceased. The Novena of

Masses will begin on Sunday, June 19th and end on Monday, June 27th. There are cards and/or envelopes at the back of the church. If you want your father, father-in-law or any other father remembered in the Novena of Masses, please fill out the envelope and place it in the collection basket or bring it to the rectory during the week. Remember, on Fathers Day we will invoke special blessing on all the fathers during the Masses that weekend.

The Parish **Social Ministry Committee** will be hosting a special Father's Day Breakfast at the McManus Parish Center in honor of all our fathers and our priests after the 8:30 a.m. & 10 a.m. Masses.

CHILDREN'S MASS

Please make it a point to bring your child to our Children's Mass next Sunday. The 10 a.m. Mass will focus on our children. The Children's Choir will sing at the Mass; and all children are encouraged to sit with other children at a designated place during the Mass.



The **ALTAR BREAD & WINE** for the week has been donated in loving memory of Carmine Nicholas Maccia by Margaret Maccia.



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

- The **budgeted** Collection for last Sunday was \$5850.00.
- The Collection for last Sunday was \$5484.45.
- Collection in support of our School totaled \$2099.60.
- The Collection for Ascension Thursday was \$1578.50

We thank everyone for their generosity to St. Bartholomew's Church. May God bless and reward all your sacrifices for the Parish!



Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Ethel Thomas, Aldina Pereira, Rebecca Conroy, Alejandra Santander, Amadeu Amorim, Grace Raguso, Andy DeFabritis, Maryann Tolli, Maria Marte, Ed Carpenter, Barbara Rup, Jule Yaskovic, Rosalie Heit, Dolores Santamarena, Florence B. Swetz, Clare Yaskovic, Neil Caruso, Raymond Fitzpatrick, Sr., Deacon James Byrnes, Andrea Objay, Carmen Torres, John Esposito, Francis Farrell, Mark Baum, Frank Marra, Christine Bellino, Deacon Patrick Troy, Josephine Apuzzo, Edith Dugan, John & Gary Roth, Lena Castaldo, Joyann Allan, Anna Rita Morgante, Lois Burton, Mary DeStefano, Carmella DelBene, Ann Ceriale, Dan Seratto, Mark Cianfaglione, Shawn Colon, Margaret Maccia, Nicole Ryan Betancourt, Anthony Spinner, Audrey & Alfred Falcone, Kathleen Hayes, Paul Montalbano, Marge Muraik, and Eve Gammino.

Registration for the 2010 - 2011 **Religious Education Classes** for public school children, running September through June, is open. Classes are available for children entering 1st grade in September through High School, including those with Special Education needs. **All Catholic children attending public schools should enroll in a religious education program.** Children currently in the program, who have not completed their re-registration, must do so this week. Please call (476-6676) for more information.



FRIDAY, JULY 1st
1:30 - 7:30 PM
MCMANUS PARISH CENTER

St. Bartholomew's will be conducting its **69th Blood Drive** in the 30 years since starting in 1981. St. Bart's parishioners and friends have made 5019 donations to date. **Congratulations to our 5000th donor, Ralph Schoene!** Thank you to all who have participated in our past drives.

We are traditionally asked to run drives during holiday periods when the need for blood is great and the donations are usually down. Your support is just one of many things that make St. Bartholomew's Parish special. If you can donate, please call Tony Sciacca (423-3592) for an appointment. Also, please encourage your family & friends to participate.

The **CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** will meet this Wednesday, June 15th at 7 p.m. in Room 111 of St. John's Riverside Hospital, 967 North Broadway, Yonkers, for education & support to help cope with cancer. Call (914) 964-4441 for information.

JUNE 12, 2011

Mass  *for the*
Intentions *Week*

Pentecost Sunday

Saturday, June 11 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM Betty Nugent +

Sunday, June 12

8:30 AM Deceased Members of Zucconi Family +

10:00 AM In Thanksgiving to Sacred Heart of Jesus

11:30 AM Anna Giuriceo +

5:00 PM All the People of Our Parish

Monday, June 13

Saint Anthony of Padua, priest & doctor of the Church

7:00 AM Monsignor Vincent T. Case +

9:00 AM Father Anthony's Special Intention

6:30 PM Intentions of the Rosary Altar Society

Tuesday, June 14

Weekday

7:00 AM Deceased Members of Manzo & Esposito Families +

9:00 AM Mark McAndrew +

Wednesday, June 15

Weekday

7:00 AM Deceased Members of Bolduc & Savard Families+

9:00 AM John Bryce +

6:00 PM Intentions of All Our Parish Volunteers

Thursday, June 16

Weekday

7:00 AM Richard Lares +

9:00 AM Robert Higgins +

Friday, June 17

Weekday

7:00 AM Richard Frischman +

9:00 AM William & Eva Blasko +

Saturday, June 18

Weekday

9:00 AM Antonio Darretta +

Saturday, June 18 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM All the People of Our Parish

Sunday, June 19

Most Holy Trinity Sunday

8:30 AM Carmine Nicholas Maccia +

10:00 AM Fiore Brusco & Gabriel Nanoia +

11:30 AM Roberto Capuano & Luigi Lucchetti +

5:00 PM Novena

JUNE 12, 2011

STRENGTH OF THE SPIRIT

Gen. 11:1-9; Rom. 8:22-27; John. 7:37-39; (Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor. 12:3-7, 12-13; John. 20:19-23)

Today is the feast of Pentecost! Pentecost, *pentekoste*, is a Greek word, meaning *fiftieth*. The Jews had been celebrating Pentecost for over a thousand years before the Christians adopted it. It was originally a harvest feast on which the first fruits were offered in gratitude to God. Pentecost later came to be celebrated as the anniversary of the giving of the Law of Moses on Mount Sinai. It was the fiftieth day after Jewish Passover. As fate would have it, the Jews were celebrating this *feast of harvest* when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Christians who had gathered together in the *Upper Room*. For the Christians, therefore, Pentecost marks the end of Easter, when the early Christians by the end of the 2nd century began to observe a fifty-day festival of rejoicing after the annual Pasch. At Pentecost, Christians celebrate the giving of the *New Law* by God the Father through Christ. On this day God gives His Spirit of love and peace to you and me, and thus sends us on a mission to all peoples.

The story of the *Tower of Babel* in Genesis 11:1-9 is a story of the perpetuation of human pride. At *Babel*, different languages splintered human beings who tried to raise themselves to God. Human pride and greed brought about division, hatred, disunity and disharmony between people. It is the role of every Christian man and woman to build bridges of love and harmony at home, church, school and in the community. Thus, according to Apostle Paul the fruit of the Spirit that comes to us at Pentecost is charity, joy, peace, patience, understanding, kindness, fidelity, gentleness and self-control (Gal. 5:22-23). In other words, at Pentecost, the kingdom of God has found a new harmony – the Spirit of God has brought in peace and harmony to our discordant world. People of different nations and languages are bonded together by the Holy Spirit to understand one another when we all speak the language of love, peace and unity. Indeed, “As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many are one body...”

As a faith community, we are aware that Pentecost is not just the celebration of a past event. Thus, it is the Holy Spirit that brings us together this Saturday, the eve of Pentecost Sunday, to pray together, and to say “**Thank You**” to the faculty and staff of our parish elementary school. Last Sunday, in the first reading, we were told of the disciples who returned to the *Upper Room* where Jesus and His Disciples had the Last Supper. The picture of the disciples gathered together with Mary, the mother of Jesus and others is symbolic and idyllic as they devoted themselves “with one accord to prayer.” It shows us that when we are united in purpose and mind we can always achieve more than anyone can imagine. Unity is strength!

As we celebrate the dedication of our teachers and staff, this passage reminds us of the sense of duty and the togetherness they displayed as they went about their duty in serving the children and parents of our parish school. As we honor these men and women today, we pray that through the guidance of the Holy Spirit they may see their future dreams realized. Like Mary and the disciples, we pray that they may put their trust in Jesus through prayers, and firmly believe that God, the Almighty will take care of their needs as they face the uncertainty caused by the closure of our school at the end of this month. Holy Spirit, come and fill the hearts of Your faithful!

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP