

The 1990's

The community liturgies reached a new level as dedicated parishioners provided leadership for the music ministry. These included Sandra Weeden, Maureen Haines, Julie Flynn, Mary Bustamante, Jeanne Isaac, Sister Arlene and Brenda Bergsrud. Lenten "soup and bread" suppers started in parishioner's homes, had grown and so were now moved to the church hall and special events such as wreath making and the community decorating the church for Advent bound the community together. Annette Alleva, liturgical artist, began providing a wonderful liturgical environment and banners to enhance the liturgy.

In the early 90's youth group members under the leadership of Amy Diaz Associate Director of Religious Education, began serving lunch at Bean's Cafe and making visits to Mary Conrad and Our Lady of Compassion Care Centers.

By mid-1990 a Halloween Carnival was established for the children of the parish with the Youth Group organizing the event. This continues today. Amy also initiated a monthly canned food drive to benefit St. Francis House with the assistance of Religious Education students in grades one through six.

On April 24, 1994 our first pastor Father Whelan, now Bishop Whalen, returned to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation, some 36 years after presiding at the first confirmation for St. Anthony's.

The parish began an annual Christmas stocking and gift program intended to benefit the folks using the Brother Francis shelter and individual parishioners took an active role in working for justice, making their views known to Alaska's congressional delegation and state legislators on social issues such as abortion and the death penalty. Parish outreach also included giving a shower for Sisters Ellen and Patricia who initiated a ministry in Mt. View and The Little Sisters of Jesus became a visible presence by ministering to those most in need. 1997 found the parish once again giving a shower, to benefit the people in Beyond Shelter, a program of Catholic Social Services.

Deacon Ted Greene along with Steve and Marsha Foy initiated and spearheaded a process to guide St. Anthony's to embrace Stewardship as a way of life. The parish was recognized by a national program for the community support of St. Francis House and true to form the parish once again had a newsletter, "Our News," a vehicle to reach out to the entire parish and encourage the community to reach out to others.

The parish now had a prize winning softball team called the "Holy Hitters" coached initially by John Fleece, then Jim Egan and later Teddy Greene.

In mid 1996 Father Fred Bugarin was assigned to St. Anthony's as Associate Pastor and was welcomed by the community and Monsignor. A week after his appointment, Father Fred was

reassigned to Kodiak, possibly holding the distinction of having the shortest tenure as Associate Pastor at St. Anthony's.

God, however, is ever generous. On October 26, 1996, Father Leo Walsh was assigned as our Associate Pastor. Father Leo came to us with many gifts and a special emphasis in Ecumenism. He quickly became involved in various parish ministries. We were not to have Father Leo very long. On July 1, 1999 he was appointed as pastor of St. Andrew's in Eagle River. Father Paul Rajareegram began his appointment to St. Anthony as Associate Pastor the same day Father Leo left.

By mid-September 1999 discussions were taking place regarding employing Sr. Donna Kramer DC for St. Anthony's. Sr Donna would later facilitate Native Ministry for the Archdiocese from an office at St. Anthony's. Ernestine Fleece along with faithful parishioners coordinated the parish Stewardship Ministry. Monsignor Cowgill's health was failing.