

## 2000's

Changes were afoot in early 2000 as Archbishop Francis T. Hurley granted permission to the Korean community, to build their own church. Anchorage gained a new Archbishop, Roger L. Schwietz and Archbishop Hurley retired. Father Paul left us for St. Patrick's and Father Balaswamy Gangrarapu was appointed as Associate Pastor, effective September 12, 2000.

*Monsignor Cowgill, in ill health for a number of years, passed on to his heavenly reward on October 20, 2000, having served the people of St. Anthony for over 32 years. Fittingly after his long service to Alaska, he is buried in Angelus Memorial Cemetery.*

With Monsignor's passing, Deacon Ted Greene, who had been director of Religious Education and Parish Administrator, assumed the role of Pastoral Administrator and Father Steven Moore, Vicar General, became the canonical pastor of St. Anthony. Maureen Haines, Gretchen Frohle, Linda Garrett, Donna Gum and Sister Arlene Boyd RSM assisted Deacon Greene during this time. Deacon Ted served as Pastoral Administrator until the appointment of Father James Wynne O.M.I. Father Wynne was with the parish for about a year.

In March 2003 Father Fernando T. Bugarin aka Father Fred was assigned as pastor of St. Anthony's. Father Fred was 14 years old when he arrived in Alaska, in June of 1963, and recalls serving mass with Mike Shields. Father Fred was ordained in January 1975 by Anchorage's

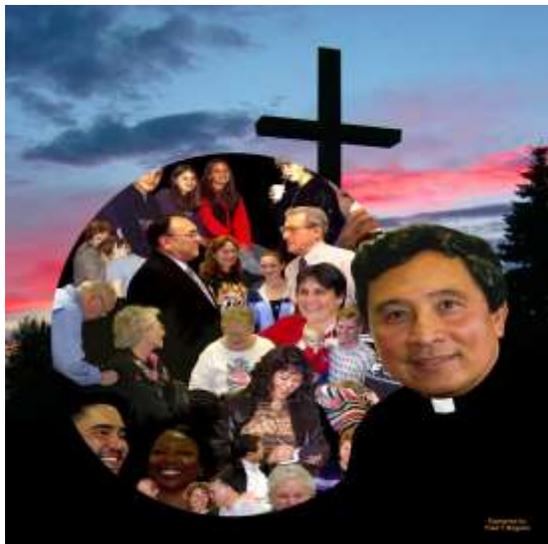
first Archbishop, Joseph Ryan.

Father spent his first three years in service at St. Benedict's, and then was appointed pastor of Sacred Heart, Wasilla and Director of Deaconate Programs for the Archdiocese.

In 1981, Father was assigned to the Chancery Office as Director of Ministries. He served from 1988 to 1996. Father then spent eight years working in the Philippines as a Maryknoll associate.

Upon Father Fred becoming pastor the parish community learned a blessing to be sung by all at the end of each liturgy.

*“May the blessing of the Lord be upon you, the blessing of the Father and the Son, and may the Spirit of God, the Spirit of God, be with you all your days.”*



*Parishioners, and visitors including our former Associate Pastor Father Mike Shields receiving the community blessing*

The morning mass on the first Friday of each month would also offer anointing of the sick. A few



months after Father Fred became pastor of St. Anthony's, Father Nelson Marilag, who had been serving as Associate Pastor, was appointed to St. Mary's in Kodiak.

Bill Goehring was hired as Business Manager and then in 2005 Sister Kathleen Powers DC came to the parish and began working with the Outreach Ministry and mentoring youth. Father Eric Wiseman was assigned as Parochial Vicar for the parish in mid 2006.

St. Anthony Parishioners have always enjoyed celebrating as a community with picnics, Mardi Gras' and other special celebrations.

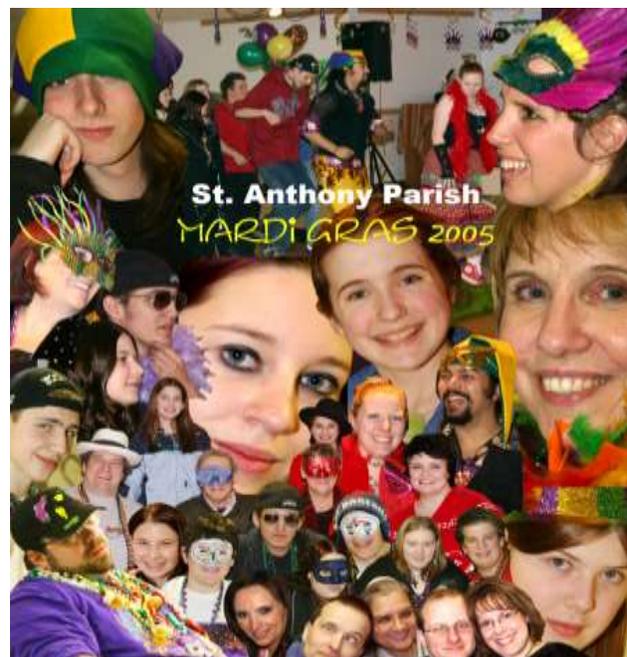
*We celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on November 17, 2007. As part of our celebration we said this prayer.*

*“As in days of old grant us a year of favor O' Lord, you have blessed St. Anthony's for over fifty years. We ask anew for your blessing. Bless all who have gone before us and all who will come after us. Send us your Spirit O' Lord. Grace us to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for captives and to comfort those who mourn, Grant us your forgiveness and healing that all may truly praise you.”*

Father Bugarin our pastor wrote the following letter to the parish honoring our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

### **To the Faith Community of St. Anthony Parish**

“Congratulations! Indeed, this celebration is a tribute to your faith expressed in justice and compassion over the span of 50 years. It has been an honor and privilege to have served our parish as pastor for 4 years now. I am well aware of those "giants" whose footsteps I follow with respect and reverence. Most



immediately has been Msgr. Francis A. Cowgill who, when I was going to Catholic Jr. High School in Anchorage in the 60s, was a familiar face who'd come to play with us at the gym. And later when I came back from mission in the Philippines in the mid 90s, I served under him as assistant though very brief -1 week!

I remember as well with fondness the times I had interacted with Sr. Arlene Boyd RSM when I was a seminarian working at St. Theresa's Camp in the 70s in Soldotna and later as a dear friend and colleague in the 80s working in the Diaconate Program and Ministries. And before all this, I have memories of Fr. Robert Whalen (later to become Bishop of Fairbanks), who I remember as a 9th grader in the 60s coming to our school on Fireweed for confession. The list goes on. But today, the honor goes to parishioners of St. Anthony's who are poised to continue the mission that goes beyond our church walls.

We honor those who are no longer with us both living and dead. And we welcome those who are new to our congregation.

ALL ARE WELCOME. This has been the main theme of St. Anthony's as a parish with such a rich diversity of culture, each finding a home and a place at the Table of our Lord every Sunday at the liturgy and at every



social event. Through stewardship, everyone is invited to be a part of the effort that serves especially the poor and the needy. Everyone is invited to contribute with time, talent and treasure. I watch with great delight as children come to the altar eager to put in the box their gifts. We are all about nurturing and safeguarding life especially of the young. To them belongs the future. And with a sigh, I could only repeat the line: "We are but prophets of a future that is not our own."

Mabuhay! Long live the parishioners of St. Anthony's. Congratulations on your 50th Jubilee.

Fr. Fred Bugarin, Pastor"

After a wonderful year of celebration we welcomed Father Ben Toritto, on loan from Cotabto, Philippines who along with Father Donation covered St. Anthony during parts of 2008 and 2009 which allowed Father Bugarin to take a sabbatical and earn his Doctorate in Ministry.

Many priests, deacons, sisters and faithful parishioners have been part and parcel of St. Anthony's and through their efforts St. Anthony has grown. So much so that four new parish communities have sprung from St. Anthony's. St. Andrews serving Eagle River, Chugiak, and Birchwood, St. Patrick's serving all those living east of Boniface, Holy Cross serving those south of Dowling Road and most recently, in 2007, the Korean community, nurtured at St. Anthony for some 26 years, now has their own Church, St Andrew Kim along with a parish community of over 150 families, on corner of 72nd and Lake Otis.

St. Anthony could also be said to have a heritage as an ethnically diverse parish which continues now to an even greater degree. The parish has growing, and active, Samoan, Native, and Filipino communities. There is now a Samoan choir, our faithful folk group continues, there is a combined Filipino gospel choir and once a month there are liturgies that include the Samoan, Filipino and Native languages.

Parish celebrations now include a variety of ethnic events, many youth



events, including two overnight fasts, one during Lent with proceeds going to Catholic Relief Service one on the

weekend prior to Thanksgiving. During these the youth raise funds, shop for food and deliver it themselves to the Thanksgiving Blessing project. Adult parishioners assist with Thanksgiving Blessing as well each year along with the traditional standbys such as Knights of Columbus pancake breakfasts and spaghetti dinners.

Social justice issues such as crime in the neighborhood, immigration reform and Medicare are being addressed by the parish. Young people are taking on a major role in the parish. Adult parishioners, our youth and the pastor are active in the Global Solidarity Ministry. Although number of members of our community have been honored via the St Francis of Assisi Awards we name just a few here; Kenneth Young, who began his ministry with the JOY Community, now is an altar server at Sunday liturgies. Parishioner Little Sister of Jesus Mary Jo Brin, for her many years spent visiting the poor. Our youth group VMY FIAT, mentored by former Faith Formation Director Donna Gum and current Director Bonnie Cler and Sister Kathleen Powers DC, was honored with the Archdiocese St. Francis of Assisi Award in 2006 and in March of 2007 won the City of Anchorage "Spirit of Youth Award." In 2015 the

award also honored Alice Young for her many long years of service and Amy and Mike Reidell for their work with the parish community garden.

AFACT (Anchorage Faith in Action Congregations Together) which had its beginnings at St. Anthony's has now grown to include sixteen member congregations of many denominations, due to the efforts of Angela Liston, Annette Alleva, Pat Petravali, Alice Young and many others. We have our own SAPCOM (St. Anthony Community Organizing Ministry) continuing one to one visits with parishioners.

*The Native Ministry continues to meet monthly at St. Anthony's with a Daughter of Charity facilitating. A few of its members including Gemma Gaudio, who were instrumental in promoting St. Kateri Tekakwitha's cause for sainthood, were able to go to Rome to be there for her canonization.*

*A hallmark of St. Anthony's has been the educating, mentoring and nurturing of ministries and leaders, with many of its ministries*



*growing to be Archdiocesan wide.* We were fortunate to have Sr. Arlene Boyd RSM educating some 25 women, beginning in 1976 in the Documents of Vatican II. Those women have become leaders and mentored more parishioners in the years that followed, with leaders going on to the many parishes formed since St. Anthony. Sr. Arlene and our current pastor, Father Fred Bugarin were also the guiding force behind the Deaconate Program for the Archdiocese. *Humbly we thank the Lord for the four St. Anthony parishioners who became deacons. Deacon Dennis Foreman, Deacon Ted Greene, Deacon, Deacon Jerry Grewe, and after leaving St. Anthony's for Nome, Deacon Bob Frohle.*

Other Archdiocesan wide ministries such as Marriage Encounter, We the Parish and Cursillo began and grew through the lay leadership of St Anthony parishioners. *We remain humbled by the dedication, leadership and parish response that allows even more new ministries to begin and grow in the parish.*

The former Korean Center is now utilized by Catholic Social Services as a welcome center for refugees.

*Begun in 2010, our parish began a community garden allowing refugees and parishioners to supplement budgets by having garden plots, and our summer food program for children up to age 18 years. From the day after school is out, to the day before school begins again. St. Anthony's parishioners partner with Children's Lunchbox, sometimes feeding over 60 young people who would go hungry were it not for these dedicated parishioners.*

In past years, many Mondays, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton youth arrived during the mealtime to encourage the children to play, making the day

more enjoyable as well as nourishing. God willing these ministries will continue and grow.

Being a prayerful and discerning people has always been important to parishioners. Retreats organized by parishioners, had excellent participation by both St. Anthony men and St. Anthony women who attended weekends of prayer and discernment at Holy Spirit Retreat Center. These were led by Jesuit Fathers including Jim Conyard, Vincent Beuzer and Armen Nigro. St. Anthony lay persons also took advantage of the many nationally renowned speakers such as Father Richard Mc Brien and Father Raymond Brown who came for what was then called Enrichment Days. We have had annual parish retreats and encourage our youth to “retreat” as well. We are humbled to accommodate the need for many forms of prayer and grateful for St. Anthony parishioners who completed a new prayer chapel in 2012.

We miss Monsignor Cowgill and recall that nearly all the newly ordained priests in the archdiocese were mentored by him at St. Anthony. Most recently our parish community hosted Patrick Brosamer serving his Deaconate year at St. Anthony. Now ordained, Father Patrick has moved on to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish.

On October 1, 2015 Fr. Bugarin went on to a new Archdiocesan ministry.

*Also October 1, 2015 parish welcomed our new pastor Father Vincent Blanco. That same day a Parochial Vicar Fr. Andrew Bellisario, CM. was appointed to St. Anthony. Father “Andy” would leave us a short six months later to become pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe.*



Father Vince began his ministry at St. Anthony's by attempting to learn the names of all the parishioners and inviting everyone attending daily mass down to the parish hall after each mass.

*We have a Pastoral Council serving both in prayer and action and you can identify the parishioners of St. Anthony's by their faith in action. We are mission oriented, welcoming, and diverse in prayer and worship.*

We have been blessed by many priests and sisters at St. Anthony, some previously named, others include Father Froilan Mantes, Sister Patricia Fairfield, Father Paul Goda S.J, Sister Kevin Flynn, Sister Kathleen O'Hare, Father Jim McLeilan CSC, Seminarian Henry Eymann, Father Michael Brennen and Father Robert Barga S.J.

We apologize to anyone we may have missed, knowing that the gifts and talents they shared by their ministry were and are valued.

We are grateful for all those now deceased who blessed us while here on earth and petition our Lord that they may Rest in Peace.

As a community we thank God for His many blessings, and pray He continues to bless each member of St. Anthony, our former Pastor, Fernando T. Bugarin, our new pastor Father Vincent Blanco, Faith Formation Director Bonnie Cler, Office Manager John White and Mario Alfaro our Facility Engineer along with our all-volunteer office Staff.

*Many unsung heroes and heroines have been a part of building St. Anthony's into the unique community it is today: Committed Catholics who have given years and years of dedicated service; parishioners who taught and continue to teach in the Faith Formation Program; The Knights of Columbus active throughout the history of*

*the parish, and all those who work behind the scenes. Everyone! They are our grace and our strength. We are a community of believers on a journey. Strengthened by and strengthening each other. We are, today, a new gospel, about to be written.*

As we move toward the future St. Anthony's will continue to be a life-giving community. We have withstood earthquakes and windstorms. New parishes have been built and those new communities are strengthened by those who were once with us. We are blessed to be the parish serving the most ethnically diverse community in the United States and to be a parish serving the poor. God willing, we will continue to be so richly blessed! We proclaim and believe as a parish community that "All are Welcome."

Please pray with us for St. Anthony's that we may continue to grow and be of service, especially to the poor in the years to come.