



Holy CrossRoads



The Good News from the Parish of the Holy Cross

Goodbye Summer, Hello Autumn!

Inside this issue:

Parishioner attends World Youth Day in Poland 1

Porch Chats come to Holy Cross 2

Vacation Bible School 2

Community Garden 3

Holy Cross Blood Drive 3

Calling for Writers and Editors 4

Holy Cross visits Alaska 4

For those of you who have been part of Holy Cross for more than a few years, you may recognize the title of this newsletter, "Holy Cross-Roads." For many years, it was a quarterly newsletter that highlighted different aspects of life and ministry in the parish. As a means of on-going communication and publicity we are once again using this forum.

Although the days of summer have faded it is important to recognize that

Holy Cross was still buzzing with activity throughout July and August. This newsletter describes some of those activities.

The days of summer unwind at a different pace. While there are some activities that subside there are other opportunities that arise. As always, the life of the parish truly comes about not so much through the activities that take place, but through the people who are part of it. I will always be

grateful for the parishioners who embrace Holy Cross as their spiritual home and are willing to do all they can to bring life to this community. Thank you to the many people who allow this parish to flourish. We hope that all who come here are touched by the Spirit of God's grace that unfolds in our midst.

By: Fr. Michael Holzmann, Pastor



Parishioner attends World Youth Day in Poland

The theme of this year's World Youth Day is Mercy. For me, mercy reminds me of the verse Matthew 25:35 "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in." One place where I experienced this kind of mercy was on the nine-mile walk to Campus Misericordiae, where the vigil was taking place. It was really hot but there were people in houses on the road that were spraying the pilgrims with water from their garden hoses and had water for

pilgrims to drink. This kindness was really amazing and it really felt like Jesus was walking along with us. One thing that got me through the pain of walking those nine miles was that the pain I was feeling was nothing compared to what He felt carrying the cross.

It was also amazing being in Krakow with 3 million other people for the same reason. It was also awesome to see so many people with flags and their pride in their countries. I was able to connect with people from 32 different countries. I brought souvenirs from New

York and I was able to trade with people from all around the world.

I am definitely looking forward to Panama in 2019. Based on this experience, this is not my last World Youth Day.

By: Daniel Emerson



HOLY HOUR FOR PEACE:

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place the first Saturday of the month from 3:45-4:45 PM in Church. Please come and pray for God's gift of peace for our broken world.

PARISH OF THE HOLY CROSS

Founded 1988

“Let All Who Enter Be
Welcomed as Christ”

95 Old Nichols Road
Nesconset, NY 11767

Phone: (631) 265-2200

Fax: (631) 265-2229

E-mail: pothc@optonline.net

Office Hours: 9:00-4:00

Monday –Friday

PASTORAL TEAM: PASTOR

Rev. Michael F. Holzmann

PASTORAL MINISTER

Deacon Ralph Rivera

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Mrs. Judith Pickel

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Ms. Ellen Fox

CO-COORDINATORS OF PARISH OUTREACH

Mrs. Connie Calabro

Mrs. MaryAnne McCulloch

PARISH BUSINESS MANAGER

Mrs. Elizabeth Shea

YOUTH MINISTER

Mr. Sal Finocchiaro

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Mr. Brian Reich

OFFICE STAFF: PARISH SECRETARY

Mrs. Jane Wirth

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mrs. Mary Pannone

Mr. James Reiss

Porch Chats come to Holy Cross

On Monday, July 18, Sister Pat Duffy, Dominican Sister brought her famous porch chats to the Holy Cross atrium. Sister Pat is well known on Long Island for spreading the Good News at various venues. Sister's usual method of speaking during the summer months is outside customarily at a parish or the Dominican Mother House in Amityville.

At Holy Cross, approximately 80 people attended. The plan was to have all the guests sit on their lawn chairs in the courtyard but with the

exceptionally hot weather the chat moved into the air conditioned atrium.

Sister Pat always speaks from her own experiences about how Christ is in each of us and how we can be Christ for each other. Using personal stories and a lot of humor, Sister Pat brings the point home. A few years ago Sister Pat was in a very serious car accident. Doctors were amazed that she even survived the wreck. During her long recovery, Sister joked that all she would do is watch reruns of Columbo. Finally, after the third time of seeing the same episodes, she was de-

termined to get back to living a full life.

Shortly after her visit to Holy Cross, Sister Pat had knee surgery. This was another in a long series of surgeries in her recovery from the car accident. The surgery was a success. Sister has informed us that she is well and will be resuming her schedule of talks through the fall and winter.

Get your lawn chairs ready! Although a long way off, Holy Cross will be extending another invitation to Sister Pat for next summer.

By: Ellen Fox

Vacation Bible School — Cave Quest 2016

This year we enjoyed getting “Batty for God” during our **Cave**

Quest Vacation Bible School. The annual VBS program is in its 11th year and this year we enjoyed almost 80 campers and about 100 volunteers to help run the program. We were ready to have some fun with our faith!! Some of the highlights were our trip to the community garden and having a big cave on the altar!! The campers experienced 7 different stations each day. Bible Adventures, Crafts, Sing and

Play, Games, Kid Vid, Faith in Action and Snack were our regular stations. We also had a field trip to the community garden, a highlight of the week!

Other stations like Helping Hands helped collect donated items from our campers daily to stock our Outreach food pantry and our Photography Station was ready to photograph the crews of campers and volunteers each day. The children even collected their spare change to total \$633 for Catholic Relief Services that Deacon Ralph came to talk to us about be-

cause at VBS we always say, “Spare change can make a BIG change!!!” We are so grateful for all the generosity of our wonderful community. It was a very exciting week to be at Holy Cross. On the last day we had our finale where volunteers and campers sang songs and viewed a montage of our memories made during the week at VBS. It was a fun and faith filled week that we are all blessed to be a part of. Hope you can join us next year!!!

By: Roseann Conforti & Dana Iovino

Community Garden

I can't believe summer is ending and we're starting to close up our Outreach vegetable garden for another year. We've harvested most of the vegetables and have pulled the zucchinis and yellow squash which lots of squash bugs were enjoying a good meal on their leaves .

It's been a good year for us. All our vegetables have been healthy & plentiful; especially the cucumbers. We

have provided many of our Outreach families with delicious fresh produce. Our ministry is blessed to be able to feed the people.

We are a small group of farmers that work on the garden from May to September each year. One of our volunteers, Phil, has helped plan and work the garden since the beginning, which was eight years ago. Over the years we have learned to garden "smarter." We have

been very fortunate to be the recipient of two different eagle scout projects for our garden.

This year, we even had a hospitality one Sunday after all masses and the people who stopped by were very surprised by the size and variety of our crops in our garden.

So, some Sunday after mass, when you have some time take a stroll down and see our garden.

By: Doreen Hau



The Community Garden- Tomatoes Area, between the Worship Area and the Parish House.

Holy Cross Supports Long Island Blood Services

Since the inception of our parish, we have been aware of the need for blood on Long Island and have been responsive to that need. Some of you may remember in the early days before we had our own Worship Center, our annual Blood Drives were held in places such as the Knights of Columbus Hall and the New York State Armory building.

In the past several years, we

have had two brave and inspirational young men come and share their stories at our Sunday Masses. Rishna lost a leg in a shark attack on vacation and required dozens of units of blood to save his life. Rafi spoke of being diagnosed with leukemia at age three and his ongoing need for blood transfusions.

Situations like theirs happen every day on Long Island.

That's why our Parish commitment to an annual blood drive is so important. We thank those who come every year and invite anyone who hasn't given blood yet to consider donating at our next annual drive. And as always, you can donate at the Blood Services site in Bohemia (the Holy Cross group number is #10019)

By: Connie Calabro & Maryanne McCulloch



Pictured are the Volunteers from VBS 2016 with Fr. Michael, VBS Co-Directors Dana Iovino and Roseann Conforti, and Director of Religious Education, Ellen Fox.

Parish of the Holy Cross,
Nesconset, New York 11767

95 Old Nichols Road
Nesconset, New York 11767

Phone: (631) 265-2200 E-mail: pothc@optonline.net
Fax: (631) 265-2229

We're on the Web!

www.pothc.org



This newsletter has been distributed via e-mail to all those for whom we have an e-mail address. If you did not receive this newsletter and would like to confirm your e-mail address, please contact our office via phone or e-mail.



Fr. Michael is calling for writers from different ministries and editors from the parish to help us with this seasonal publication. If you're interested, please contact Fr. Michael or the office staff during office hours (9:00 - 4:00, Monday - Friday).

Holy Cross visits our 49th State

In June Fr. Michael brought a group of 30 travelers to experience the beauty and wonder of Alaska. After a full day of flying the adventure began in Anchorage. The first three days were spent on land including a train ride up to Denali National Park. An early-morning wild life tour brought the group into the backyard of moose, caribou, dall sheep, and eagles among the many habitants of the great wilderness. Later in the trip bears and whales made their appearance.

After the time on land was complete the group boarded a Holland America cruise ship for a voyage down the coast of Alaska. The ports provided opportunities for activities like whale-watching, biking, helicopter flights, hiking, and good old sightseeing. One of the highlights for many was the time that was spent in Glacier Bay coming face to face with a mile wide glacier. It is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that is hard to describe.

The sailing ended in Vancouver, B.C. but the trip

continued. The group visited the highlights of this beautiful Canadian city before crossing back into the United States where time was spent in Seattle. It was an amazing adventure that created lasting memories of this masterpiece of God's creation.

The next trip on the drawing board will be a tour of the deep south, including Myrtle Beach, Charleston and Savannah. Watch the bulletin for details regarding this April trip.

By: *Fr. Michael Holzmann,*
Pastor



All Welcome