

## 'PHOTO ALBUM' IN STAINED GLASS REFURBISHED AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION BVM, ALLENTOWN

By TAMI A. QUIGLEY  
Staff writer

The preponderance of the 25 old-style art stained-glass windows at Immaculate Conception BVM, Allentown portray "a photo album of the life of our Blessed Mother," reflected Pastor the Rev. Harold F. Dagle. "You can see the entire life of Our Lady depicted, and where Mary is, Jesus is," said Fr. Dagle, pastor since 1980.

The windows are a splendid element of the church that was founded in 1857 and declared National Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of the Americas, in 1974. So it seems fitting the parish recently targeted a generous portion of its STRENGTHENING OUR FUTURE IN FAITH (SOFF) funds to refurbishing the windows.

Fr. Dagle explained the first church was founded at Ridge and Allen streets in 1857. When the present church site was built in the 1890s the parish did not have the money for stained-glass windows. After World War I, though, the parish commissioned Meyer and Company, Munich, Germany, to install these windows. "A good bit of marble work was also done at that time," Fr. Dagle said.

Expounding on "old-style art," Fr. Dagle noted the stained-glass windows are really painted glass, with great attention to detail. For example, "the robes are enriched with lines ... so it almost looks like embroidery," he relayed.

Fr. Dagle noted the Annunciation scene was featured in the poster "Windows of the Diocese" a few years ago in the Allentown Diocese. The windows portray scenes including Mary with her parents, Anne and Joachim; Mary's presentation in the temple; Mary and Joseph's engagement scene in the temple; the birth of Jesus; the Flight into Egypt; finding the child Jesus in the temple; the Assumption of Mary into heaven; and the crowning of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth.

Fr. Dagle said there is a window illustrating the deathbed of St. Joseph, patron of the dying. "That's because it's likely Jesus and Mary were present at his death, and so St. Joseph is the patron saint of a happy death," he related. One window that does not depict Mary is one that represents the Sacred Heart and St. Margaret Mary Alacoque.

J&R Lamb Studios Inc., Clifton, N.J. began the \$22,877 refurbishing this year in mid-January and completed the work Feb. 22. Fr. Dagle said Immaculate Conception has already received approximately \$16,000 to \$17,000 of the parish's SOFF rebates.

The parish raised \$201,000 in SOFF pledges and exceeded its goal of \$173,000 by \$28,000. As with all diocesan parishes, Immaculate Conception will be rebated 25 percent of every SOFF pledge fulfilled by its parishioners.

The windows were thoroughly cleaned, and the lead replaced where necessary. All were reglazed, a process through which the

existing putty is removed from the T-bars, repotted and painted black so as not to take away from the stained-glass windows. Some of the windows - which predominately highlight the colors blue and red - were bulging. These were removed and straightened with half-inch galvanized steel bars installed so the bulging would not recur, Fr. Dagle said.

Two future SOFF-funded projects are on the horizon at Immaculate Conception. The parish plans to erect a sign in front of the church identifying the church and the National Shrine. "We will also cushion the pews to improve the acoustics of the spoken word," Fr. Dagle said, noting the church already has good acoustics for music.

Fr. Dagle highlighted the generosity of parishioners in contributing to SOFF, adding parishioners have also been charitable to past efforts at the parish, including a separate parish capital campaign that funded the complete refurbishing of the church - with the exception of the windows - in 2002. "They were very generous, raising \$360,000 for the renovation of the church," Fr. Dagle said. Parishioners also generated \$460,000 to build a chapel, lobby for the social hall below the church, and install an elevator to aid the elderly, handicapped and disabled in 1996.



A beautiful rendering of the Immaculate Conception graces the church. (Photos by John F. Simitz)

## LAY LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

### Membership

Parishioner	Deanery
Mr. William McMahon	Berks
Mr. Willam Mason	Carbon
Mrs. Pam Welkie	Lehigh
Mrs. Joan Pacala	Northampton
Mr. Joseph Chiaretti	North Schuylkill
Dr. Brian Barket	South Schuylkill

Members of the Lay Leadership Committee were invited to serve as lay representatives from each of the six deaneries in the Diocese of Allentown for the STRENGTHENING OUR FUTURE IN FAITH campaign. This committee will meet on a quarterly basis for the duration of the capital campaign. **One of the committee's responsibilities is to ensure the proper allocation of funds to the identified elements in the original case statement.** For any additional information or to contact a member of this committee, please call the Pledge Fulfillment Office at 1-800-831-4443.



Spring 2006

Supporting the Challenge of Christ's Mission as a Catholic Community

### Issue 13

## CAMPAIGN SUMMARY

(as of March 31, 2006)

**Pledges Raised to Date**  
**\$52,850,340**

**Funds Received to Date**  
**\$28,646,696**

**% Fulfilled to Date**  
**54.20%**



## IMPROVEMENTS TO BOTH PARISHES AT ST. BERNARD AND ST. MICHAEL, EASTON

By TARA J. CONNOLLY  
Staff writer

The faithful from St. Bernard and St. Michael, Easton raised a combined \$473,000 for STRENGTHENING OUR FUTURE IN FAITH (SOFF), the capital campaign for the Allentown Diocese, surpassing their goals and helping with major renovation plans devised in 1999. The Rev. Msgr. John S. Campbell, Pastor, explained both parishes have reaped the benefits from the \$417,000 in pledges garnered from St. Bernard and \$56,000 in pledges from St. Michael. Both parishes exceeded their goals and will receive 25 percent of all funds they raised through SOFF.

The primary project completed at St. Bernard was interior and exterior painting to the church building, and the chief project performed at St. Michael was the remodeling of the parish hall bathrooms. "The church needed painting and the ceiling needed to be repaired. Since the changes, the church looks bigger, brighter and better, and gives off a warm feeling," said Monsignor.

Msgr. Campbell explained the painting project and new bathrooms were part of a series of changes funded by parish savings in conjunction with the parish's new center constructed in 1999 and its 175th anniversary in 2004. "The building of the parish center has been a sign of great dedication in making sure that our parishes would be able to serve the needs of their people with an adequate facility well into the future," said Msgr. Campbell. "Our families really wanted to bring the parish to where it should be and complete some modern changes," he added.

The painting project and new bathrooms were completed on the heels of other changes funded by parish savings, including new interior and exterior painting, electrical upgrades, and repair to the plumbing system at the rectory. The largest single project completed with the parish savings was an estimated \$100,000 slate roof to the St. Bernard church building. "The roof was in bad shape and a new roof helps keep costs down in other areas like heating and air conditioning," explained Msgr. Campbell. Along with a new roof, the interior of the church underwent other physical changes including a renovated choir loft, and a new organ, sound system, air conditioning and lighting.

Msgr. Campbell explained the parish also decided to install a pulpit, an important element for homilies and proclamation of the Word. "There was never a proper pulpit and the parish felt it was a necessity," he said. Parish funds were also used to remodel the sanctuary, purchase a new altar and doors, and clean the existing marble.

According to Msgr. Campbell, it was the generosity of parishioners from St. Bernard and St. Michael that made the renovations and remodeling projects possible. "In light of the anniversary, people were so generous to SOFF because they are truly thankful for the existence of such wonderful parishes," he maintained. "I am so happy to be here. There is a spirit of stewardship and it shows in their sacrifices for the Church and the goodness within them. They are very kind and committed to their faith. They show it in physical ways and through their acts of mercy," said Msgr. Campbell.

St. Bernard was the first Catholic church in the Lehigh Valley, established in 1829. St. Michael was formally established in 1916 and began sharing a pastor with St. Bernard in 1964 while maintaining separate activities and joining together in activities with its sister parish.



The Rev. Msgr. John S. Campbell, Pastor of St. Bernard and St. Michael, Easton, offers prayers up to God on the new altar, one of the many changes to the parishes with parish savings and proceeds from STRENGTHENING OUR FUTURES IN FAITH. (Photos by Ed Kosky Jr.)

## CLERGY, PROFESSIONALS LEARN ABOUT 'THE SPIRITUALITY OF AGING'

By TAMI A. QUIGLEY  
Staff writer



"If you want to learn something about life, walk with someone who is aging," Dr. Richard Johnson imparts during a seminar on spiritual gerontology March 30 at St. Thomas More, Allentown.

"If you want to learn something about life, walk with someone who is dying. If you want to learn something about life, walk with someone who is aging," Dr. Richard Johnson told diocesan clergy gathered for a seminar on "The Spirituality of Aging" March 30 at St. Thomas More, Allentown. "We should all walk with someone who is aging. We should all have 'Tuesdays with Morrie,'" Dr. Johnson said during the afternoon clergy training.

Both that conference and the successive professional development seminar "Applications of Spiritual Gerontology: How to Successfully Work with Five Difficult Chronic Problem Personalities in Later Life" were sponsored by the Older Adults Program of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Allentown, and funded by the STRENGTHENING OUR FUTURE IN FAITH (SOFF) diocesan capital campaign. Dr. Johnson is nationally recognized for his work on spiritual gerontology and its professional applications in social work and other areas of human services. Last spring he was the keynote speaker for "A Celebration of Later Life" in the Allentown Diocese. Robert J. Olney, Parish Outreach Program Administrator for Catholic Charities, coordinated the sessions.

"There's so much baggage with aging - we're so afraid of it," Dr. Johnson told clergy. "Sociologists tell us we're ageist - we fear it, try to push it away," he said, noting that Christ preached "Do not be afraid, I am with you always."

Dr. Johnson stated maturation begins at conception and continues through life. In a culture that elevates youth, Caucasian males over 72 have the highest rate of suicide - twice that of teen-agers. Why? "Somehow they cannot connect anything

going on in life with what's going on now. They think their best years are behind them," Dr. Johnson said. "We have a crisis of meaning in our culture. The life of Christ, the teachings of Christ, is meaning. We have the richest definition of meaning," Dr. Johnson affirmed.

Dr. Johnson relayed in the past 100 years our longevity in western culture has increased 30 years, and we should listen to older people who are filled with wisdom. "Wisdom, or illumination, should be followed by unity. This is a great challenge of the Church - to find a pragmatic way to connect the call for meaning with the growing number of older people with the message and meaning of Christ," Dr. Johnson shared. "Age is only the number of times you've been around the sun. Any other meaning you give to that number just may be your problem."

Dr. Johnson observed people age differently, and some, no matter their physical condition, just glow. He explained sickness is the disease - such as cancer or heart problems - but illness is your personal, psychological, spiritual reaction to your sickness. "Illness causes more pain to the human condition. We try to cure sickness but heal illness - this is the province of the Church. There is an intangible quality that is more resonant in some than in others," Dr. Johnson said.

Johnson detailed his "Twelve Keys to Spiritual Vitality," which are comprised by these 12 points: Transform your Attitudes about Maturation; Seek Love Everywhere; Delight in Connectedness; Live in the "Now"; Accept Your True Self; Forgive Others and Self; Let Go of Anger and Other Inner Turmoil; Give of Yourself to Others; Celebrate Faith; Discover the Deep Meaning in Life; Make your Feelings Work for You; and Achieve Balance in Life.

Johnson also reviewed the results of his "Ageless in the Lord Profile" (ALP), which studied how people are doing in each of the 12 keys. An attitude score targeted to what degree they thought the keys should be present in their lives, along with a behavioral score, showed to what degree they were actually doing them in their lives. Both scores rose for females but not males, with results similar for both laity and religious.

"This is a garden we need to be tilling, watering," Dr. Johnson advised. "I firmly believe the Holy Spirit wants us to live longer on this planet. The Holy Spirit is hand-in-glove with the medical community," Dr. Johnson said, musing perhaps we are to live longer to bring more wisdom into the world. "In many dioceses senior ministry is buses, bingo, brownies," Dr. Johnson lamented. "We can do better. Jesus is asking us to do better."

Dr. Johnson noted this work does not all fall to priests, who already have many responsibilities, but suggested putting it to the laity. He credited Olney for working very hard to have senior ministry, not just senior groups, in the Allentown Diocese.

"As we mature our spiritual pace is supposed to quicken," Dr. Johnson said. "I believe Jesus has something for us to learn spiritually at every stage of life ... and the Church has yet to get serious about lifelong, ongoing adult faith formation."

Dr. Johnson said the greatest paradox of aging is that "loss is the driving force of all growth." For example, the loss of toddlerhood capitulates you to growth to early childhood, Dr. Johnson reasoned. And, in tandem with our faith, "You must die before you can live."

*Saying the best years are in the past is "an excuse to be something less than Jesus Christ is asking me to be," Dr. Johnson said.*

Dr. Johnson cited relationships, sickness and aging as the three master teachers of life, and deemed aging "part of the living water Jesus has to offer us." Saying the best years are in the past is "an excuse to be something less than Jesus Christ is asking me to be," Dr. Johnson said.

"The most concise, clear psychology is The Beatitudes because it shows us what love is. We really need to make more of The Beatitudes in our teaching to adults ... every decade of life gives you a deeper understanding of what The Beatitudes are all about," Dr. Johnson offered. "Jesus said, 'I make all things new,' not 'I make all things new until you retire.'"

In keynoting the second conference, Dr. Johnson pointed out the five chronic problem personalities of the later years: The Angry Older Person, The Dependent Older Person, The Depressed Older Person, The Anxious Older Person and the Delusional Older Person. Characteristics of the angry older person include anger that is general and nonspecific, and expression of anger is not related to the present. The dependent older person

has an urgent quality to all requests and has difficulty making independent decisions. The depressed older person has an inner preoccupation and withdrawal from others, as well as deficit in attention and memory. The anxious older person is in a mood state that includes a variety of emotions such as a feeling of impending doom, excessive worry, fear and feeling of uneasiness. They have self-doubt and extreme self-consciousness. The delusional older person's perception of reality is distorted and can have auditory, sensory and olfactory hallucinations.

More than 90 professionals attended the seminar. Representatives from parishes, community agencies and Catholic health care providers were in attendance.



Participants listen to Dr. Johnson's insights during the seminar sponsored by the Older Adults Program of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Allentown and funded by STRENGTHENING OUR FUTURE IN FAITH, the diocesan capital campaign.

## INSTITUTE FOR LAY ECCLESIAL MINISTRY 'DRAWS US CLOSER TO THE LOVE OF CHRIST'

By TAMI A. QUIGLEY  
Staff writer

The Institute for Lay Ecclesial Ministry (ILEM) is gearing up to welcome a new pool of participants, as it is accepting applications for Year One to begin in September 2006. "We are truly looking forward to beginning another year of the institute. It has been such a grace-filled experience for all those involved," shared Jeanine Breault, Director of the diocesan Office of Adult Formation and Administrator of the Institute.

"Many people in our diocese have responded to the call to help promote the Kingdom of God through ministry and service. ILEM helps prepare and support them in their ministry or helps them discern where or how God might be inviting them to live their baptismal call. For those eager to be formed as disciples of Jesus, ILEM is a wonderful opportunity."

Thanks to the ongoing success of STRENGTHENING OUR FUTURE IN FAITH, the capital campaign for the Diocese of Allentown, tuition for Year One has been totally funded by SOFF proceeds. This program is intended to provide laymen and

laywomen with a foundation in theological studies, pastoral skills and spiritual development, integrated with preparation for ministry and service in the Church and the world.

There are 145 people lay people engaged in the three-year process, exploring topics including Sacred Scripture, Christian Prayer, Church, Foundations of Our Faith, Liturgy, Sacraments and Morality. An emphasis is placed on Ministry and Leadership Skills, and the Spirituality of Ministry. Integration of the course material into their lives and ministry is enhanced through mentoring sessions with experienced practioners who serve as mentors. Two retreat days are held each year to nurture the spiritual formation of the participants.

Classes are held from 7 to 9:30 p.m.: Mondays, St. Francis Center for Renewal, Monocacy Manor, Bethlehem; Tuesdays, Holy Name High School, Reading; Wednesdays, Marian High School, Tamaqua; Thursdays, St. Francis Friary and Retreat House, Easton.

Those involved as faculty and participants in ILEM are enthused about their connection to the program, including the Rev. George R. Winne, who instructs ILEM classes at Marian,



Arlene Seeber instructs a group of second year ILEM participants at Holy Name. (Richard J. Patrick)

where he is Director of Spiritual Activities. "Teaching people and being part of ministry formation is so enriching," Fr. Winne offered. "Experiencing such enthusiasm for doing ministry, as well as hunger for a deeper level of faith, is hopeful and life-giving to me."

Barbara Martell, Spiritual Director of St. Francis Center for Renewal, teaches ILEM classes at that location and echoed Fr. Winne's sentiments. "I am deeply moved by the hunger and love for God in my students and the way that God uses that desire through the material from the program for their personal transformation into the likeness of Christ and love for His Church," Martell said.

Participants, too, were quick to share their keenness for ILEM. Rosemary Caffrey, St. Catharine of Siena, Reading, said, "ILEM has been a gift in my life. I have learned so much. It has increased my understanding of our faith's history and traditions. The course has affirmed my relationship with God." Caffrey said she's been given excellent resources to fall back on and has a deeper commitment to serve and lead others, adding the retreats and instructors have been wonderful. "As a result of this experience I remain open in mind and heart to the Holy Spirit and have the desire to carve out the time to just sit and be with God in silence each day," Caffrey shared.

Mary Marzen, St. Joseph, Jim Thorpe, said she's always been interested in getting to know "My/our God Father, Son and Holy Spirit. ILEM seemed to be the natural step for me. It has not only been life-changing for me, but the benefits of the varied books and articles, the lecture contents, the faith-shared times, the personal contacts and relationships that have occurred as a result have been beneficial not only for myself but also for my family, friends and co-workers."

"I am surprised at how much I have grown spiritually this year. For this, I am very grateful," offered Robert J. Olney, Notre Dame of Bethlehem. Olney is Parish Outreach Program Administrator for Catholic Charities, Diocese of Allentown.

"We cannot give what we have not received; we cannot teach what we have not learned," observed Chris May, Sacred Heart,

West Reading. "Through basic exploration of various facets of our shared faith, and more importantly, through an ongoing spiritual formation that awakens us to our baptismal call, the institute helps to draw us closer to the love of Christ."

Dave Hugenbruch, Holy Rosary, Reading, was hesitant about signing up for a three-year commitment but is glad he made the decision to invest the time with ILEM. "I am gaining the knowledge I felt I lacked as a Catholic adult and am developing skills I can use at work or in the parish community ... best of all, my relationship with Jesus is stronger than ever."

"Being part of the ILEM program, learning about our faith, and becoming family with my classmates and our teachers, has helped my faith to grow and become alive, and, most importantly, has shown me how to put my faith into action," said Arlene Sachleben, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Shenandoah.

*"We cannot give what we have not received; we cannot teach what we have not learned,"*

Angie Wambaugh, St. Anthony, Reading, said she had an inner longing, a feeling she needed to know more about God and her relationship with Him, so she prayed about it. Not long after, her pastor invited her to participate in ILEM. "I did, and now I feel I am growing in my relationship with God, and I feel I will only continue to grow closer in Him and Our Lord Jesus Christ."

"Great program," attested Jean Quirk, St. Patrick, Pottsville. "Instructors and material provided are fantastic and give you a hunger to continue in your discernment of your ministry."

For more information, contact Breault at the Office of Adult Formation, (610) 289-8900, ext. 236, or [jbreault@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:jbreault@allentowndiocese.org).



A group of ILEM participants listen to the Rev. Wayne E. Killian instruct a class at St. Francis Center for Renewal, Monocacy Manor, Bethlehem. (John F. Simitz)