

## PARISH ORGANIZATIONS AND MINISTRIES

### *Altar Rosary Society*

The Altar Rosary Society of Holy Innocents Parish welcomes all women of the parish. The Society provides the opportunity to share in the spiritual, social and service life of Holy Innocents.

Committees have formed to order and sell religious articles; clean the sanctuary and launder the linens; make baptismal garments; and create and maintain church banners. Another group of committees is devoted to the organization itself. We have a slate of officers and a spiritual director; committees exist for programs, publicity, refreshments, sunshine, welcoming new parishioners and social action. We realize that it is not always possible for all our members to attend all meetings, so our monthly Newsletter keeps them up-to-date on activities.

Through fund-raisers such as the sale of Bibles and Family Portraits, the society has taken care of Parish needs. For example, we have provided for regilding the altar candlesticks, the banners that hang on either side of the altar, and altar breads.

Aside from fund-raisers, the Society sponsors special programs such as "The Day of Prayer," a retreat for the women of the parish.

This is a group of women with diversified interests and talents whose basic concerns are the betterment of themselves, their families and their Parish. They are called to serve and bear witness to the love of God and His Most Blessed Mother. Being a part of the Altar Rosary Society provides both fellowship and service to the Lord.

### *Bible Study*

In June of 1976, a few women attended an Introduction to the Bible course with Father Guido of Holy Innocents. For most, this was their first encounter with this sort of thing. They left with a desire to know more about the Word of God. Three women, Eleanor Passarella, Joyce Schmidt, and Joan Tave began meeting on a weekly basis and before long there was a steady group of women meeting every Wednesday morning. During the past eight years, over seventy-five women have attended this Bible study. In addition, a group of women has branched off to form another study group in the Manasquan area.

An average of 12 to 24 women meet on a weekly basis at Joan's or Eleanor's home. Over the years many priests and religious, as well as members of other faiths, have joined them.

In addition to studying Scripture, they have contributed to the Covenant House in New York City and the Food Pantry in Asbury Park.

They are always happy to greet new members.

### *Ceramic Group (The Clay Busters)*

During the parish's first year, a card party was planned, and Flavia Marisca and Jeanette Rostrom, a former schoolmate of Father Reilly's,

made and donated the ceramic table prizes. Fr. Reilly asked them if he bought a kiln, would they make prizes for future affairs. They thought he was joking. However, Father was serious, and with the installation of the first kiln, two other parishioners joined Jeannette and Flavia to form the original group. Over the next 24 years, the group welcomed new members and at one time reached a high of 20; but over the years, it has numbered 12 to 14 strong. They also began accepting orders from neighboring parishes and organizations. They first worked in private homes, but upon completion of the Church, they moved to the Furnace Room in the Cafeteria. After many years, they finally settled in their permanent home, the Ceramic Room in the rear of the cafeteria.

Our ceramic Christmas trees have been sold to people as far away as Florida, California and Michigan, as well as all parts of New Jersey. The largest table prize order was in 1964 for 300 swans for St. Catherine's card party. Orders have been filled for groups from New York, Trenton, and North Jersey towns. Included were prizes for a Congressman Peter Rodino fund-raiser. Popular items have been anniversary and wedding favors.

Holy Innocent's Ceramics have been supplying the Gift Shop of Jersey Shore Medical Center for many years. Also, the group conducts classes for Holy Innocents School students every year.

The volunteers enjoy every project, and are proud of their work. Each Christmas they take special delight in seeing their outdoor colored Nativity set, and their large Nativity set inside the church.

All their profits go to the parish and school. The Ceramic Annual Weekend Sale is held in early October, when orders for Christmas are taken, and completed by Thanksgiving. They meet once a week, 11 months a year, just taking off the month of December. The group has never missed a deadline and, when necessary, has worked extra morning shifts to finish on time.

Through the years, the members have become steadfast friends and are more like a second family to each other.

### *Choir*

First organized under Win Curran, the Holy Innocents Choir has been providing music to complement the liturgy for many years. At the start, the all-female choir sang a Latin High Mass once a month. Gradually the nature and scope of the choir changed under the series of leaders who followed: Sally Price, Father Guido Tiong, Father Robert Decker, Flavia Marisca.

Having begun as organist with Sally Price, Flavia witnessed the influences of liturgical change as English became the language of worship and ecumenical services were scheduled at Holy Innocents and in neighboring churches. Under Father Guido, the choir welcomed male



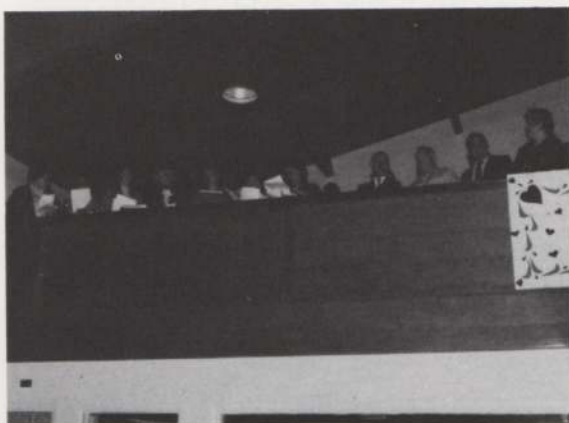
*Rosary Altar Society officers, 1983*



*Bible Study group*



*Ceramic Group*



*Choir*



*CYO group*



*Deacons*



*Faculty of Holy Innocents School*



*CCD teachers*



voices, providing four-part harmony for Christmas and Easter holidays, Confirmations, and other church celebrations. In time, the Holy Innocents Choir joined with St. Elizabeth's of Avon for these events and for special occasions such as the installation of our pastor, Fr. John Scully.

In September of 1983, Flavia retired, and Miss Carol Fleming of Princeton, N.J. became the new director. Through all these changes the choir has remained a source of joyful participation for those who believe that "singing is praying twice."

## **CYO**

The many facets of Holy Innocents CYO have been displayed throughout the years. What began as mainly a sports-oriented club has grown into a spiritual, social, and service organization. The many activities of the CYO have included monthly youth masses, visits to nursing homes and local hospitals, involvement in the Monmouth County Tournament of Champions, walkathons, participation in the Monmouth County CYO, and various fund-raising and social events. The CYO takes great pride in its two volleyball championships and basketball trophies.

CYO meetings are held on the first and third Sunday of every month. New members are always welcome. Our youth organization is open to all high school students.

## **Diaconate**

Because of his concern for the growing needs of our parish, Fr. Reilly accepted our first parishioner to participate in the Diaconal Training Program in September of 1977.

Classes at the Diaconate in Trenton are twice a week, with an occasional extra day. Also included at times are retreats and special seminars that must be attended.

Diaconal training in the Diocese of Trenton takes five years; three years to ordination (Holy Orders), and two years of continuing education. Required courses include: Old and New Testament studies, dogmatic theology, marriage tribunal work, spiritual direction, Church History and counselling.

Responsibilities of deacons are to preach and teach, baptize, officiate at Benedictions and wake services, witness marriages and bury the dead.

At the present time we are fortunate in having three deacons: Nick Amatelli, Mike Auleta and Jim Walsh. They are involved in major ministries in our parish, such as religious education, music and liturgy.

## **Director of Religious Education**

Feeling the need for a permanent Director of Religious Education (D.R.E.), Father Reilly appointed Nicholas Amatelli our first permanent D.R.E. in February of 1978. Included in the staff were three faithful and active parishioners: James and Marie Ouellette were co-ordinators from 1978-1980, and Pat Riordan has been vice-principal since 1978.

The D.R.E.'s responsibilities are many: curriculum planning, teacher training, in-service training for teacher's aides, sacramental programs and assigning speakers for the Adult Education Program. Progress has been made by the addition of new audio-visual material and filmstrips. Also available are Scripture tapes and tapes of many of our guest speakers.

In September 1983, Sr. Sheila Byrne, O.S.F. was appointed as the new Director of Religious Education.

## **Folk Music Ministry**

The present folk music ministry was formed in July of 1979 with the encouragement of Fr. Patrick Rhatigan. Originally, the group was comprised of only four members: Diane Manning, guitarist; Maria Scotto, Joni Tave and Lorraine Schannen, singers. Today the group consists of fifteen members who play not only guitars but also electric bass guitar, trombone, xylophone, flute and autoharp.

Besides singing at the 12 noon Mass on Sundays and at other parish celebrations, our music ministry has had the honor of singing at other special occasions. In May of 1981 they attended a music workshop given by Rev. Cary Landry, singer and writer of ten albums of Christian songs. They were chosen to lead the music for the Sunday liturgy of that special weekend. Also, in October 1983, they were invited to sing on Cable television to help raise money for a local charitable organization.

Singing together over the years has brought the members into a close relationship with each other. The harmony that so eloquently exists is a natural happening; it is there because of the spirit and dedication of all. They pray before the Mass begins that through meaningful songs of praise and worship they may be used as instruments to encourage the congregation to participate in the joyful celebration of the Eucharist.

## **Holy Name Society**

In 1274, Pope Gregory X commissioned Blessed John Vercelli to create and lead the Holy Name Society in order to generate greater devotion to the Holy Name. The Holy Name Society has become a bastion of belief in the Divinity of Christ and an outstanding vehicle for programs of an effective laity.

In Holy Innocents the society was renewed in May, 1981. Presently they have a membership of over 50, with between 20 and 50 active members. This men's organization is dedicated to the spiritual, physical and charitable needs of the parish.

Monthly meetings start with Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament followed by a business and social meeting. Members are asked also to watch one hour before the Most Blessed Sacrament on the first Friday of each month at Saint Catherine's, Spring Lake. The hours rotate.

The Society yearly sponsors a family picnic and a family Communion breakfast.

The "Nite on the town" raffle is their only fundraiser. A portion of the proceeds from this affair



Folk Music Group



Holy Name Society officers



Lectors



Legion of Mary officers



Living Witness Prayer group



Eucharistic Ministers



PTA officers



Holy Innocents School Librarians



is donated to the Father Reilly Scholarship Fund. The organization also sponsors three bowling teams, capping the season with a banquet.

The society's goals are to increase membership; create fellowship; and foster the spiritual growth of the men of the parish.

### **Lectors**

Early in the Church's history a separate reader was appointed for the proclamation of the readings, always someone other than the leader of the celebration. The office of lector appeared in the second century as a position, a special position; it is the oldest of the lesser degrees of ordination. Today a lector is commissioned to proclaim the readings for a certain community at a certain place.

The lector is appointed for a function proper to him, that of reading the Word of God in the liturgical assembly. Accordingly the lector is to read the lessons from sacred scripture, except for the Gospel, in the Mass and at other celebrations. He is to recite the psalm between the readings when there is no psalmist; he is to present the intentions for the general intercessions in the absence of a deacon or cantor. The lector, together with his brothers the priest and deacon, is a minister. Both ministries are responsible for effecting the presence of God among Christians gathered in worship. Ministry is a gift from God to the individual for the good of all God's people.

To be a proclaimer of the Word of God we must first, for our own sake as much as for the people, know what we are talking about and believe what we are saying. It is a call to be Christ-centered in thought, word and action in the manner of the Apostles. We hold the message that Jesus Christ is God, it is ours first to own in our hearts and then mirror it in the message of the scripture.

In the late 1960s Father Reilly instituted the ministry of Lector at Holy Innocents Church. He asked several men to take up this important church position. Over the past decade many teenage boys and many men have served in this capacity. Most recently this ministry was opened to the women of our parish. There is a continuous invitation to all members of our parish to volunteer for this special and important church ministry.

### **Legion of Mary**

The Legion of Mary was founded by Mr. Frank Duff, a 32-year-old civil servant in Dublin, Ireland, in 1921. The Legion is an association of Catholics, with the sanction of the Church and under the powerful leadership of Mary Immaculate, Mediatrix of all Graces. They have formed themselves into a legion for service in the warfare which is perpetually waged by the Church against the world and its evil powers.

The Legion requires its members to undertake apostolic work, it stresses above all personal contact with each individual and seeking out the rejected and the hopeless. Every year there are 1,000 Irish Legionnaires of all ages who give up a week of their annual holidays to go abroad at

their own expense through Europe and Russia to propose the faith to one and all. They visit homes, hospitals, jails, hostels, and people on the streets.

The second part of the Legion refers to the Auxiliary membership, the men and women who are unable to assume active membership but are most needed. They have the obligation of praying the *Rosary* and the *Legion Tessera* for the intentions of Our Blessed Lady.

Over 40 years ago when Ecumenism was virtually unknown, the Legion instituted Ecumenical discussions in Dublin with Protestants, now known as "the Pauline Circle," and on a regular basis with Jews through the Pillar of Fire.

The basic tenet of the Legion is that ordinary men and women help and volunteer their services under the banner of Mary and thus obtain new insights into their fellow man. The spirit of the Legion is that of Mary herself.

At Holy Innocents Church we are proud to continue her work. Our Legion of Mary, Immaculate Conception Praesidium, welcomes the young and old, single and married, and those who are alone.

The inception of our Immaculate Conception Praesidium through the efforts of Sr. Catherine Paone, M.P.F. began in 1978 under the sanction of Fr. James A. Reilly. The group meets once a week in the Rectory.

### **Living Witness Prayer Group**

The Living Witness Prayer Group began in September of 1981 as a result of some 15-20 parishioners' attending a Catholic Charismatic Conference held in Ocean Grove Auditorium. People filled the Grove to give honor and glory to Jesus Christ and to praise Him publicly in prayer, song and the Eucharist.

With Father Reilly's approval the group began to meet in homes and to experience the presence of Jesus in their midst. The gifts of the Holy Spirit, as noted in the Bible (1 Cor. 12-14), were manifested in their group.

In November 1982, our Pastor, Father John, invited the Prayer Group to meet on Church grounds. Some of the people who helped form the group are Deacon Nick and Mildred Amatelli, Dave and Eileen Zaleski, Deacon Jim and Nancy Walsh, and Joan Tave.

Everyone is welcome. There are no fees or dues. The group meets once a week in the school music room.

### **Ministers of The Holy Eucharist**

In the mid-1970s, as the spiritual needs of our parish were ever-increasing, the number of priests was decreasing. Father Reilly had for a while only a part-time assistant. It was during this time of need that he turned to members of the parish for help. He bestowed on them the honor of distributing Holy Communion.

From this humble beginning, the number of ministers has grown. Now both men and women serve in this very special ministry. As the needs of our parish grew, their duties have expanded to distributing Holy Communion to the sick in the hospital, in nursing homes and at home.



Men



Organist, Flavia Marisca



Altar Boys



25th Anniversary Committee



25th Anniversary Book Committee



At the present time, Dr. Andrew Buzzelli is the minister in charge of the hospital unit and James Ouellette is the minister in charge of the Church unit.

### ***Parent Teachers Association***

Holy Innocents PTA is an association made up of parents and teachers who have acquired a sincere appreciation of the ideals of Catholic education. This organization was started in 1965 under the astute direction of Father James A. Reilly. It continues to flourish and is currently a member in good standing of the Monmouth-Ocean Region of the Trenton Diocesan Council of Parent Teachers Associations.

Working closely with Father John, the Spiritual Moderator, and under the guidance of Principal Sister Elsa Donati M.P.F., the PTA lines up projects and fund raisers, all of which are intended to improve Holy Innocents School and the children's educational opportunities. Dedicated parents have served unselfishly and have spent many hours working to keep this school financially sound. This unit continues to respect the established school policies and strives to make Holy Innocents School the best possible for the children.

### ***Presidents — Holy Innocents PTA***

1965 - 1967	Lois Danese
1967 - 1969	Bettylu Johnson
1969 - 1971	Carmella Gadaleta
1971 - 1972	Marie Langenbach
1972 - 1973	Margaret Scully
1973 - 1975	Ruth Garrison
1975	
May thru Sept.	Anthony and Carolyn Cashman
1975 - 1977	Don and Joan Bartlett
1977 - 1979	Harry and Lorraine Devine
1979 - 1981	John and Rita Burke
1981 - 1983	Walter and Mary Golembiewski
1983 -	June Conti

### ***Parish Library***

A seed was planted several years ago when two women — Marie Ouellette and Joan Roma were shopping for material to sew draperies for the CCD Office. Marie expressed to Joan the desire to see this office turned into a library to benefit all Holy Innocents parishioners with inspiring and educational Christian literature. The office was used for the CCD teachers and their resource materials. Marie and her husband Jim had been involved a total of seven years with CCD. They were Co-Directors of the CCD Program from 1978-1980. Marie was a home economics teacher and Jim a vice principal. They both gave to our parish their educational experiences and talents with a spirit of dedication and total unselfishness.

This seed, however, did not take root right away since Marie could not labor over it and nourish it. Her labors instead were turned to a four-year struggle with cancer. She passed away on October 2, 1982, leaving Jim and three children: Dina, Dori and Michael. Many of her friends

donated money to Jim in her memory to do with as he wished. Hearing of Marie's desire to start a parish library, he contacted Deacon Amatelli, the CCD Director. Being true to his character, he unselfishly donated this money to the library. With Fr. John's permission, the seed took root. The library would be dedicated to Marie's memory.

In January 1983, Deacon Amatelli asked Pat Monroe and Lorraine Nonnenberg to be co-directors of this project. The women had been helping out in the office on Monday afternoons and had already filed the Audio-Visual materials, with plans to file and catalog the CCD teachers' resource books. After accepting this position, they ordered supplies and organized a committee of workers. Several boxes of books were donated by parishioners, bringing the count to over six hundred! Book plates were designed by a very talented parishioner, Bobby Chick. They were inscribed: "Holy Innocents Parish Library in Loving Memory of Marie Ouellette." The seed was beginning to sprout!

It was July 13 when the first meeting was held to organize the volunteers and to set up a work schedule. The objective for the library was stated: "To serve the people of Holy Innocents Parish by providing literature and materials that will stimulate their minds and open their hearts to love and serve the Lord." The original committee of helpers in addition to Pat and Lorraine consisted of these dedicated women: Rita Munn, Shirley Badger, Anne Brockel, Pauline Feit, Debbie Gopsill, Frances Hardesty, Clara Morson, Christine Munn, Bonnie O'Rourke, Joan Roma, Mary Steinberger.

It was decided that the library be opened after the Masses on Sundays. A dedication ceremony was held on October 30, 1983. A plaque was installed with Marie's favorite saying: "Take time to smell the flowers." It was a tribute to her. A library: a living entity, growing, improving, needing nourishment, and giving so much. A reflection of Marie. The seed she planted is now in full bloom!



*Father Guido Tiong's Farewell Party, June 1976. Joan Roma, Fr. Guido, Marie Ouellette, Sally Vandenbos.*