

ICSB NEWSLETTER

September/October Edition



Celebrating 10 years of service at Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget's with Fr. Robert Bradler

Over the last 10 years, we've come to know, love and appreciate Fr. Robert Bradler. We will explore his path to Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget's and find out why he has stayed.

Fr. Bradler is the Assisting Priest for Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget's. He celebrated 59 years of priesthood this past June. Fr. Bradler officially retired in 2007, but continued to help out other parishes- 67 of them to be exact! After serving 3 ½ months at St. Pius X, he was asked by Bishop Clark to serve at Immaculate Conception for 2-3 weeks after Fr. Paul Gitau had been transferred. He agreed and has blessed us ever since- 10 years later!

Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget's was one of the 67 parishes he served. It was at that time that he was exposed to Black Catholic Liturgy. In his words, "It was a totally different ballgame." He felt that the congregation of Immaculate Conception was very welcoming and he learned a lot from and enjoyed the culture. One thing that stood out to him was the Sweeping Ceremony. While with us he celebrated his 50th Anniversary as a priest in which a few dancers and choir members participated.

*In the same
way, let your
light shine
before others,
that they may
see your good
deeds and
glorify your
Father in
heaven.*

Matthew 5:16

Celebrating 10 years of service at Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget's with Fr. Robert Bradler (cont'd)

Fr. Bradler enjoyed our coffee hours and how it built community, bringing people together, and he says that is what we miss now. Father also shared that he learned a lot from us during Black History Month and Black Catholic History Month, which he had never experienced. He found that our style of celebrating the Liturgy was appealing to him.



“I am still here because Bishop Matano knows how happy I am here, and that I am well liked. Although I struggle with macular degeneration, other accommodations such as using larger fonts have helped me. I am very appreciative of that. I never looked at this as an extra burden- my duties are light and only includes the Sunday Liturgy. It is somewhat harder, though, since I no longer drive myself.”

Fr. Robert Bradler will celebrate his 87th Birthday in January, 2022.

*"Therefore, my
dear brothers
and sisters,
stand firm.
Let nothing move
you. Always
give yourselves
fully to the work
of the Lord,
because you
know that your
labor in the
Lord is not in
vain."*

1 CORINTHIANS 15:58

Celebrating the Month of the Rosary - October

October has been designated as the Month of the Rosary, noting the prayer to Our Lady and the blessings that come from praying the mysteries. Starting as a simple way of paying adoration and respect to Our Lord, the prayer has evolved through the ages as a powerful intercessory aide in asking Our Lady for help and assistance.

In the early days of the church, many of the religious and learned peoples would spend their time in prayer, reciting the 150 Psalms daily. Monks would pray the psalms or engage in a form of prayer to include praying a daily Mass and reciting 50 psalms. Wishing to imitate the monks and other religious, the lay brethren, who were mostly illiterate, also desired to engage in a similar form of prayer. They were taught to pray the “Pater Noster” (Our Father) on a continual basis, using small stones or pebbles, sometimes discs of bones threaded on a string, to maintain count.



Counting with beads, pebbles, or stone was not unique to the early church. Buddhist monks of Japan use rope beads for counting their prayers, Muslims have prayer beads when praying to Allah, and monks of the Greek church would use prayer rope to count genuflections and signs of the Cross when praying. It is said that a certain monk in the fourth century, Paul the Hermit wished to repeat 300 prayers a day. To assist in counting, he gathered 300 pebbles, and would put one aside as he completed each prayer.

Repeating the Pater Noster on a continual basis was the most common method in use to assist the lay people to “pray without ceasing” in their lives. The use of the “Hail Mary” came into being around the middle of the 12th century, as the importance of Our Heavenly Mother and her role in salvation history came into being with the writings of the early church fathers and the many councils acknowledging the same.

*And if we know
that he hears us
—whatever we
ask—we know
that we have
what we asked
of him.*

JOHN 5:15

Celebrating the Month of the Rosary (cont'd)

Recitation of the psalms divided into section of fifty each was said to be the preferred form of devotion for the religious and learned persons. For the less educated, the recitation of the Hail Mary became their favorite form of devotion and pattern of prayer, as they felt they were imitating the practice of God's more exalted servants, those who preceded them on earth and were now in heaven. Their prayers were initially repeated 50 times, in patterns of 10 each, allowing for prostrating of self or other marks of reverence in between patterns.



This manner of prayer, transitioning from the Pater Nosters to the Hail Marys, became the norm until the late 1490's, when the church felt that a petition prayer should be included. The initial verse of the Hail Mary was a salutation/greeting, rather than a prayer request, and the concept of completing a request for assistance was introduced. Around 1514, what was the initial concept of the second verse was found in the Breviary of the Camaldomese Monks. The verse was used in various forms until the final version was shown in the words of the Catechism of the Council of Trent, and finally given in the Roman Breviary of 1568.

Between 1410 and 1439, Dominic of Prussia proposed a form of the Marian psalter in which there were fifty Hail Marys, each followed by a verbal reference to a Gospel passage. Eventually, this way of prayer became to be known as the "Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary," and was simplified to its present form in 1521. The final, traditional form was standardized during the Counter-Reformation during Pope Pius V pontificate.

The mysteries of the Rosary, Joyful, Sorrowful, Luminous, and Glorious, relate back to the life of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and are found in the Gospels. The exceptions are the last two Glorious Mysteries, referring to Mary's Ascension into heaven, and Crowning as Queen of Heaven (which are teachings of the church handed down through the ages from the early church fathers and various church councils). Praying the Rosary allows us to reflect upon the life of Christ, and how his teachings and sacrifices have provided all with the opportunity for salvation and everlasting life.

*"if my people,
who are called
by my name,
will humble
themselves and
pray and seek
my face and
turn from their
wicked ways,
then I will hear
from heaven,
and I will
forgive their sin
and will heal
their land."*

2 CHRONICLES 7:14

It's Back to School Time

It's back to school time; but, things are not what they used to be- we have a deadly and insidious virus still dwelling among us! We interviewed four educators from various school districts to get a glimpse into what they have seen and heard from other educators, parents and students about this highly anticipated school year.



Q: How does it feel to be back in the classroom with students?

A: All four of the educators of the teachers expressed being excited and energized by being back in the classroom with their students. They talked about it feeling so good to hear the familiar noises of the students in the halls and having easier interactions with students and other faculty. Alana Bell also said: "I am very excited to be back in the classroom with the students in person. Remote teaching was extremely difficult for everyone, and the students learned far less online than they do in school, and they are much less motivated when they have to do things on their own at home."

Meet the educators:

- Alana Bell: a teacher of 12 years in Foreign Language at Auburn High School.
- Julian Bell: a Teacher's Assistant at an elementary school in the Auburn School District. 7yrs formally in the Geneva School District.
- Raina Moore Boupavong: a teacher in the City School District for 15 years. She teaches Spanish and works in the Online Credit Recovery Program.
- Deacon Richard Rall: a teacher for 19 years in the Gates- Chili School District. He teaches General Science and Enriched Earth Science to 8th graders.

Q: Do you feel that there is any anxiety from you, the students or other teachers about coming back together?

A: Again, all four teachers had very similar answers to this question. They all expressed that other faculty and the students were a bit nervous in the beginning because no one knew just how all the planning for this school year was going to come together in real time. Raina Boupavong noted how some of her students seemed nervous about sitting next to other students, and Deacon Rick and Alana Bell observed how some students were concerned about how they were going to deal with the traditional classroom expectations after having been away from it.

"Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you."

THESSALONIANS 3:16

It's Back to School Time (cont'd)

Deacon Rick especially expressed concern about how students would acclimate to traditional testing where they would not have access to all the technological help that they had when in the remote setting. Deacon also talked about how some teachers were still exhibiting burn out from the previous school year because so much was thrown at them with so little time to really feel comfortable with all the expectations. All the educators also expressed that parents, while glad to have their child (ren) back in school, also were very concerned about the ability of the teachers and administrators to keep the school environment safe.



Q: Do you think that there is a difference in how the city schools and the suburban schools are addressing the issues surrounding COVID?

A: Unanimously, all four expressed that they did not feel there were significant differences in how the various districts were handling safety procedures in the schools. Deacon Rick said: "I think the schools are pretty much on par. There has been communication and collaboration between the various districts. There is a definite desire and intent to keep students and staff safe."

Raina Boupavong also stated: "I really believe everyone, no matter what district, is doing the best they can. I see teachers and administrators thinking creatively regarding how to keep students and staff safe. They are being serious and one can see safety protocols being in place all around the buildings and in the classrooms in terms of hand and surface sanitizers, air filtration and even keeping seating charts." Of course, as Julian Bell said: "All the districts are under the guidelines put in place through the State of New York."

Q: Do you have concerns about getting sick with COVID?

A: Three of the educators, Alana, Julian and Raina, have children under the age of 12 so that their children have not been able to get vaccinated. They definitely had concerns about getting the virus and passing it on to their children. Further, Raina said that, "If I get the virus and pass it on to my children before it is discovered, then my children could pass it on to others in their school and this begins a domino effect." Julian and Deacon Rick, though, had a hopeful outlook to this. Julian stated: "Every day I have a little concern as a parent and husband, but I follow up with my doctor and take advantage of the biweekly testing opportunities available to Educators." Deacon Rick also indicated: "I don't have a lot of concern about getting sick. I am vaccinated, and I really feel that I take all necessary precautions to stay safe and keep others safe."

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

A Prayer for Putting on a Mask by Richard Bott

Creator,
as I prepare to go into the world,
help me to see the sacrament
in the wearing of this cloth –
let it be “an outward sign
of an inward grace” –
a tangible and visible way
of living love for my neighbors,
as I love myself.

Christ,
since my lips will be covered,
uncover my heart,
that people would see my smile
in the crinkles around my eyes.
Since my voice may be muffled,
help me to speak clearly,
not only with my words,
but with my actions.

Holy Spirit,
as the elastic touches my ears,
remind me to listen carefully –
and full of care –
to all those I meet.
May this simple piece of cloth
be shield and banner,
and each breath that it holds,
be filled with your love.

In your Name
and in that love,
I pray.
May it be so.
May it be so.

–
"A Prayer for Putting on a Mask" by
Richard Bott

*"Finally,
brothers and
sisters, rejoice!
Strive for full
restoration,
encourage one
another, be of
one mind, live in
peace. And the
God of love and
peace will be
with you."*

2 CORINTHIANS 13:11

ICSB Member Highlight

This month we would like to highlight the Tatum family who, you may recall, were past members of our parish community but relocated several ago years to South Carolina. They have since returned and we got a chance to catch up with this wonderful family.

Describe your Christian journey?

Our Christian journey is evolving. I am a cradle Catholic and so is Mel. We are raising our kids in the faith. The sacraments, the rituals of our religion are precious to us and we try to honor God with our faith and behavior. At the same time, we are a blended family and our faith helped us have the patience and vision to embrace a progressive view of what makes a family and what God asks of each of us in this life.



Makeeda Tatum- RN, Anthony Jordan, Health Center @ Woodward, Lector

Melvin Tatum- Bausch & Lomb, Manufacturing

Terrence 21, Student at Trident Technical College Charleston, SC

Rosie 19, Student at University of South Carolina Major Biology; Minor Dance, Dance Ministry

Violet 11, Nazareth Hall Elementary, Lector, Dance, Children's ministry, in training for altar service

Lily 6, Nazareth Hall Elementary, Children's Ministry, Dance ministry

What brought you back to Immaculate Conception?

We returned to Rochester after living in SC for 9 years to help my Mom deal with health and aging challenges after my father passed away.

You and Violet are actively involved in ministries of the church; how does it feel to be an actively involved member of the church family?

Well, we wouldn't have it any other way! We take pride in the works that make a person a Christian and build character. We all are earning our spot in heaven and ask God to give us the opportunity to be our best selves. My older kids served, our younger kids will serve and we will serve in whatever capacity we can (Mel's schedule makes it more challenging for him to attend, but when restrictions lift he will help with the Men's and Hospitality ministry as much as possible). This is the essence of being a Catholic -our faith and service.

"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."

ICSB Member Highlight (cont'd)

Do you have a wish list for the parish?

I would like to see the children's ministry and dance ministry flourish. I think the children should run the mass more frequently than once a year!!



As the children begin school, do you as a parent have any concerns regarding Covid?

Yes, I have concerns, but I believe God gave us tools to use for protection and to allow us to still live, learn and WORSHIP in this challenging time. Kids need professional in person instruction and we are smart enough to protect one another but still live our lives. Get vaccinated, wash hands, social distance, mask and do your best to protect others.

In this time of Covid-19, is there anything more that you think the parish should be doing for safety purposes?

Nope – we're doing plenty!!!

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven."

MATTHEW 8:10



Happy Birthday

September Birthdays

September 1

Timothy Sullivan

September 7

Bethsaida Seide

September 8

Makeeda Booker-Tatum

Melvin Tatum

September 10

Belinda Seide

September 16

Peter Fraver

Patricia Nguti

September 29

Mildred Burgess

Harold Moore

October Birthdays

October 7

Hica Bukuru

Erica Nsabimina

October 14

Raina Boupavong

Lee Wingo

October 16

Willie Johnson

October 17

Harry Pierre-Philippe

October 21

William Castle

October 22

Myrna Barthelemy

October 23

Jackie Bryant

October 24

Espoir Hicuburundi

Jean Seide

October 26

Stephanie Bukuru

October 29

Richard Dingwall

October 30

Ifeoma Nwokelo

"Whoever pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor."

Meet the Parish Council

As an advisory body to the Pastor, the Parish Council is “to orchestrate a statement of mission for the parish community and become the reference point for activity in the parish.” (Pastoral Council Guidelines, 2015).

The Council meets once a month (usually the first Saturdays in each month) at which time the Council hears updates from the Pastor and shares with the Pastor needs, concerns and ideas concerning activities in the Parish and/or ways in which the Parish and the community at large can come together to meet needs of the community.

All ministries at the Church report to the Parish Council either directly or through another related ministry. As an example, the Liturgy Committee reports to the Parish Council, but other ministries such as the Choirs, Liturgical Dance, Art and Environment, The Black Catholic Heritage Committee and the Caribbean Mass Committee all report to the Liturgy Committee and therefore have representation on the Parish Council.

Members of the Church at large are invited to directly address the Parish Council during meetings (the Church secretary must be notified if a parishioner wants to attend or speak at a meeting so that the speaker(s) may be included on the agenda). Parishioners can also approach any Council member to voice concerns or make suggestions or comments.

A major focus for the 2021-22 Council will be the creation of the new Strategic Plan for the Parish for 2022-2027. Stay tuned for activities in which your participation and input will be critical.



GEORGE FONTENETTE
LAY TRUSTEE



KEVIN O'HAGAN



RAMONA MOORE



JOANNE GORDON



HARRY PIERRE-PHILIPPE



KEITH PARRIS



PRECIOUS FONTENETTE



VINCENT STROUD

"not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

PHILIPPIANS 2:4

Rochester Black Catholic Coalition

For the past few years, several Black Catholics were members of the Black Catholic Leadership Commission of the Diocese of Rochester. This Commission was a part of Urban Ministries which was headed by Bernard Grizard, Director of the Department of Pastoral Services (the name of the office is now the Office of Multicultural Ministries). The Commission was tasked with creating activities that would bring Black Catholics within the Dioceses together. In late 2019, Mr. Grizard let the Commission know that due to the ongoing abuse charges leveled against the Diocese, the Diocese was cutting back on some budgets and therefore there was not going to be money to continue the activities of the Commission. He also said that the terms of the current members at the time had all expired, so effectively, the Commission was being disbanded. The members of the Diocesan Black Catholic Leadership Commission decided to get together to continue efforts to bring Black Catholics together even without direct Diocesan assistance.

Despite the Pandemic and lack of Diocesan support, this group of dedicated Black Catholic leaders has met several times via Zoom throughout 2020-2021. In our meeting in July, 2021, we decided to formalize our group. In August, 2021, we agreed on the following:

Name of group: The Rochester Black Catholic Coalition

Mission: to bring Black Catholics together to encourage/ support/ envision/ create/manifest events and liturgies to enliven/ deepen and provide opportunities for Black Catholics to worship and learn in/with our unique cultural perspectives. We also desire to bring the richness of the Black Catholic experience to the wider Catholic Community.

Activities:

Initially, we will gather a group of Black Catholics who will be dedicated to the mission of this group.

The group will:

- Share events and worship opportunities in our parishes to support existing programs or events that are in line with our mission.
- Create programs /events to provide learning/ worship/social opportunities in line with our mission.

At this point the members of the Coalition are:

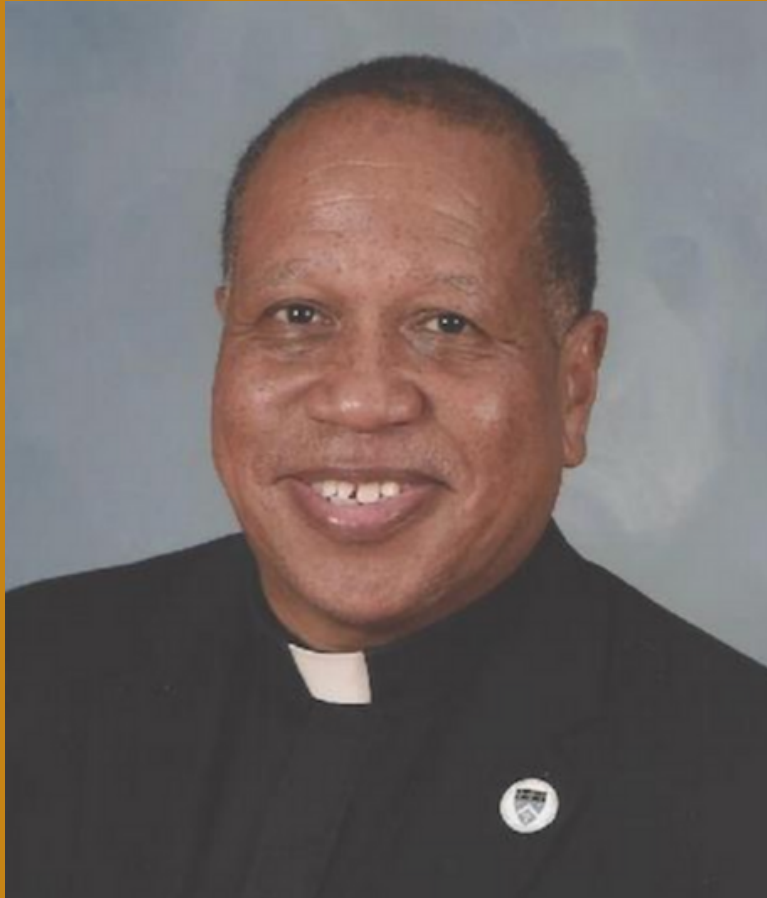
- Diane Dinkins-Lourette - St. Monica
- David Powe- St. Rita
- Joanne Gordon – Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget
- Candice Lucas- Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget
- Ramona Moore - Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget
- Vincent Stroud- Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget

This group will be keeping our Parish aware of activities and looking for opportunities for parishioners to participate.

"But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you."

1 SAMUEL 12:24

Save the Date
A Transforming Revival/Retreat
Virtual Event!!!



Featured Speaker:

Rev. Anthony Bozeman
Transfiguration Church
Los Angeles, CA

Friday, November 12th and Saturday, November 13th

Preaching, Praising and Raising!!
You DON'T want to miss this!!!