

TAGASTE NEWSLETTER
PROVINCE OF ST. NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINE
OAR
APRIL 2022

Easter greetings to all of our brothers in the Province of St. Nicholas, the Order, the Augustinian Recollect Sisters, our Secular Augustinian Recollects, Guild members, and the Hispanic Committee, as well as our parishioners at Sacred Heart Church! After a very unusual winter with temperatures alternating between biting cold and almost summer-like conditions, spring is definitely here!



Cherry Blossom Time: A sure sign that spring has arrived in New York is the appearance of the cherry blossoms around St. Augustine statue at Tagaste Monastery and all around the Suffern area. It was worth the wait!

Lenten Solace. Fr. Jim Worth pastor of St. Joseph Church in Maplewood, New Jersey, and a personal friend of Fr. Michael Rafferty, pastor of Sacred Heart, presented a collection of meditative songs on April 5, 2022. Fr. Jim sang and performed on the key board, much to the delight of the audience which included 7th and 8th grade CCD student as well as parishioners. About 125 people were in attendance at the performance which was held in the Sacred Heart school gymnasium. It was, as the word “solace” implies, a welcome moment of joy in the midst of Lenten observances.



The sound of music. Frs. Michael and Jim greeting the people who attended the musical performance on April 5 in Sacred Heart gym.



Palm Cross sale (l to r): Fr. Michael, Chris Schnabel, and Madeline Babcock sells palm crosses on April 10 in anticipation of Holy Week.

Holy Week services, 2022. Parishioners returned to Sacred Heart in large numbers for all the services of Holy Week, beginning with **Palm Sunday**. In addition to the parish, the friars distributed palms at The Willows Nursing Home in Suffern and Friedwald Center in New City, New York. On each day of the Triduum the parish held the traditional morning **Tenebrae Service** (including the *Lamentations* of Jeremiah) with music director Mary Peden leading the singing. Fr. Michael, assisted by Frs. John Gruben and Eric Crelencia, was main celebrant at the **Holy Thursday liturgy**; the ceremony of Washing of the Feet, which had been suspended for 2020-21 due to the pandemic was resumed this year with both men and women from the parish participating in the service.



Washing of the feet. Twelve parishioners participated in the Holy Thursday ceremony reminiscent of Jesus' action at the Last Supper. Frs. Michael and John are seated behind the altar.



Fr. Eric washing the feet of each of "the apostles" on Holy Thursday.

On **Good Friday** Fr. Michael presided at the Liturgy of the Passion at 3:00 p.m. in English and Fr. Eric in Spanish at 7:30 p.m. while Fr. John led the Stations of the Cross. The **Easter Vigil** service began at 8:00 p.m. with the lighting of the new fire and the preparation of the Paschal Candle. Fr. Michael once again presided, assisted by Frs. John and Eric, and sang the Exultet in a bilingual arrangement. There were two Confirmations and one First Holy Communion, the candidates being prepared by Myriam and Jorge Montano.



Liturgy of the Passion. Frs. Michael (celebrant) and John seated behind the altar on Good Friday while Jean Bolton read “the Suffering Servant” text from the Prophet Isaiah, [Photo taken from the choir loft at Sacred Heart]



Easter Vigil Rite of Initiation: Frs. Michael (c) and John with Confirmation candidates and sponsors with Jorge and Myriam Montano.

Divine Mercy Sunday. Fr. John led services which began with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and an introductory presentation on the life of St. Faustina Kowalska and history of the Divine Mercy devotions followed by selections from the dialogue between Jesus and the soul (Faustina). As the 3:00 p.m. hour approached there was a solemn chanting of the Chaplet of Mercy followed by a meditation on the Gospel of the Day (The bestowal of the power of forgiveness on the Apostles and the apparition of the Risen Jesus to Thomas). Benediction concluded the service. Frs. Eric and Michael were available for Confessions throughout the service.



Divine Mercy services. Fr. John (c) stands with group gathered for Divine Mercy prayers at Sacred Heart on April 24.



Designer Pocketbook Bingo. Fr. Michael, Chris Schnabel, and Santiago Belvedere for a fund-raiser in which players competed for a variety of prizes included elegant hand bags, drawing a large number of ladies to the school gym on April 22. Refreshments were also available.



SAR News. After consulting with a number of our SAR members, we have decided to start holding regular monthly meetings of the Tagaste fraternity this coming September; the date for our first meeting will be announced over the summer. Our plan is to hold our meetings on Sunday afternoon beginning with the 1:00 p.m. Mass at Sacred Heart followed by our meeting in the school cafeteria. In advance of that date, we will also hold get togethers to celebrate the feasts of St. Ezekiel Moreno (August 19) and St. Monica and St. Augustine (August 27-28). Stand by!

For all parish news, upcoming events, and Mass schedules, see sacredheartparish.org

For the latest news on Venerable Bishop Alphonse Gallegos, OAR, see www.bishopgallegos.org

Fr. John Gruben, OAR, prior

Theresa Giampaglia, SAR president

Connie Montanye, Guild president

*Christ
is
Risen!*