

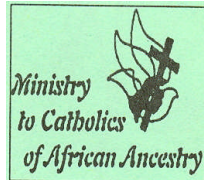
Welcome, Fr. Chris



St. John of God welcomes you as our new pastor on June 23, 2010. We say 'Good-bye...and you're always welcome at St. John of God' to Msgr. Ron Richardson who came with his prayerful calm as Administrator in a difficult time for this parish.

The parishioners here have been very active for these six months of 2010 prior to your arrival. We're ready to work with you to continue all the good for which this parish is known! Here is a glimpse of some events.

The Ministry to Catholics of African Ancestry arranged the Annual Mass in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 17. Ours is a very active MCAA chapter—only one of two in Suffolk County.



Holy Name Society presented their awards for the Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest later in January. The students in Religious Education preparing for First Holy Communion received the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the early months of the year. Fr. Tom Coogan, Dean of the Area, visited from St. Pat's, Bay Shore to assist Fr. Ron and Padre Humberto.



Lent started in February; the parish scheduled the St. Patrick's-St. Joseph Dinner Dance at the K of C Hall; we came together for special devotions: Study of the Bible, the Passion Narratives, and opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration. A bi-lingual Mass on March 8 honored St. John of God, our patron. Midway through Lent a severe storm knocked down trees on the parish garage and convent roof. Fortunately our insurance policy covered 90% of the repairs!!!



Holy Week came quickly and the Spanish Community marked Good Friday with the annual *Via Crucis en Vivo*.

When we celebrated the Resurrection of the Lord at Easter Vigil, three adults received their sacraments. Two weeks later, seventeen young people prepared in our Religious Ed. Program received their sacraments at a special celebration just for them—which we call "Little Easter".



Many of our parishioners are active in the larger community of Central Islip. Two were recognized by the Town of Islip Board during

Women's History Month: Marjorie Banegas (left) for her role as our Outreach Coordinator and Anne "Missy" Bedard, (right), for her work through the Coalition of Good Neighbors.

For Memorial Day, folks gathered along Carleton Ave. in front of the church watching the Annual Parade.



C.I.H.S. Band provided spirited beats to lift the feet of the marchers. And the CIFD displayed the personnel and equipment keeping us safe!

So here we are, Fr. Chris, ready to write another page in the history of St. John of God Parish with you as Pastor! Welcome again!!