

SAINT ANTONINEWS

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JESUS IS LORD TO THE GLORY OF THE FATHER

**MAY IS HER MONTH.
DON'T LET HER DOWN.
PRAY THE ROSARY!**

WHERE DID LENT GO???

If time keeps going at this rate, don't blink, we will be at Christmas! Holy Week has come & gone & we are roaring toward Pentecost. And what a Holy Week it was! Three of our people were fully initiated into the Church at the Easter Vigil & what a night that was! We welcome to the St. A's family in full communion:

Sedric A. Coleman
David E. Archer
Jodely M. Flores

They were accompanied on the altar by their sponsors William (Bill) Thorn for Sedric, Wendolyn Santos for Jordely & Br. Andre Manders, CFR for David. They were greeted with hearty applause from the congregation who welcomed them into the St. A's family in full communion.



A dinner was held in their honor where family & friends & supporters gathered to partake of the sumptuous feast prepared by Dianne Pascall who spent many hours cooking & baking with traditional Easter breads & a magnificent dinner with all the trimmings. People got to introduce themselves & the conversation was animated.

BUT THEN....

...one of the guests was gesticulating animatedly glued to her cell phone where she was receiving reports of a fire in Newark on S. Orange Ave. Indeed there was, for the air was acrid & heavy. Apparently there was an underground fire on S. Orange Ave...right in front of the church. The Fire Dept., a fleet of Newark police cars, & several PSE&G vans appeared to deal with the problem. S. Orange Ave. was blocked off for several blocks & any one trying to get to the church had to do some circumlocutious driving to get to the church from the back side streets. A good crew made it in time for the Easter fire on the front lawn. The Fire Dept. was alerted that this was a religious ceremony & there was no need to come down the ample fire which was largely fed by the wind. People then processed behind the Paschal Candle representing the Light of Christ coming into a darkened world & they traditionally process into a darkened church.

Well the church was darkened in more ways than one. The underground fire burnt a wire that supplied the church with power. All the buildings on S. Orange Ave. were affected....except the rectory! So the scramble was on to find heavy electrical cords that could bring power in from the rectory. Aside from some light for the music ministry, the church was dark except for the candles the people held that had been lit from the Paschal candle at the front door. Portable battery operated lights were put on the pulpit for the readers & the altar was dark. When all the lights were to be traditionally turned on after the Gloria, only a few came on. The priests were seated in the shadows of darkness & reading from the Missal was difficult for the celebrant but all pressed on & the richest liturgy of the year ended with great Halleluiah's & even some light!



HOLY WEEK WAS A WEEK OF HEROES.

Heroes were all the people who navigated their way to the celebration of the greatest liturgy of the year after being contacted at the last minute by Constant Contact that S. Orange Ave. was closed to traffic in front of the church. Instead of just giving up, they pressed on & came anyway.

Fr. Joseph & his team of men are heroes for managing to get light from the rectory into the church, running to find heavy duty electrical cords & rigging them up with ladders & spotlights to give light to the music ministry & power to the mikes. All this took place as dinner was over & servers were coming in to set up for the Mass to find no light. The fact that there was power in the rectory was a miracle in itself as everything else on S. Orange Ave. was in darkness. But then again, God is always a Hero.

All day Saturday a few were in the church, cleaning & decorating for the great celebration. Pauline Enechukwu, who is retired, was among them working away despite having problems with her legs as age has taken a toll. She finished & went home & on the way she was hit by a car on S. 7th St. by a young couple who ran a stop sign & hit her car. She got out of her car & confronted them & they were so sorry & apologized profusely. She was taken to the ER where she spent the night & was back in church on Sunday morning ready to welcome & praise the Risen Lord! And after Mass she took Communion to one of our parishioners who is shut in. That will take a prominent page in God's book of heroes.

And then there is the incredible story of one of our altar servers who drove for over 10 hours to rescue a friend in Canada who was in danger in a hospital there where they really didn't know how to treat a case of a malignant form of malaria. The hospital of course did want to let him go but somehow our young man managed to get him out of there & wanted to take him to the airport to catch a plane back to the Ivory Coast, his native land, where he would get the treatment he needed. Confused by all the medication he had been given, he kept wandering away & had to be caught by our young man & restrained & of course the police didn't look kindly at this forced but necessary intervention. When it was obvious this ill friend could not fly alone, our young man paid for a ticket for himself out of his own pocket & accompanied his ill friend back to Ivory Coast. He then had to fly back to Canada & get his car & drive for 10 hours back to NJ & he was here to help with the electrical mess on the Easter Vigil, exhausted but here. That will not take a page on God's book of heroes, that will take a whole book by itself.

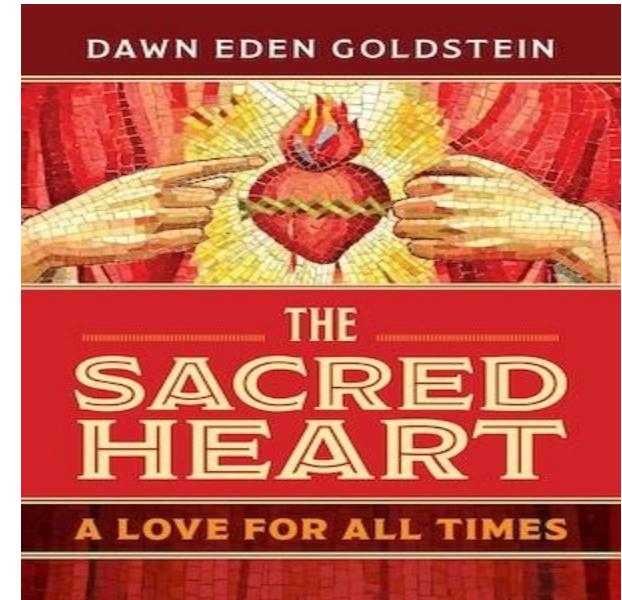
What incredible heroes serve in this parish. Empowered by the Holy Spirit & His love, they didn't stop until all had been taken care of & then they came into God's House on the holiest night of the year to pay Him homage. How many of us have that kind of holy faith in action?

We thank God for them & for the friend in Ivory Coast that he is getting the treatment he needs & God willing, he will return & show up here at St. A's where he can meet & thank his friend & we all can embrace them both in love & gratitude.

Thank You, Risen Lord!

AND ANOTHER LABOR OF LOVE

...will be coming to talk at the First Friday Mass on May 2 on her new book on the Sacred Heart. Mass will be at noon in the lower church & the talk will be at 1PM by Dawn Eden Goldstein, the daughter of our parishioners, Ron & Rachel Rose Siwoff. Dawn currently lives in Washington, D.C. & has taught in universities in the USA, England & India. This is a golden opportunity to hear her speak on this coming First Friday which is dedicated to the Sacred Heart as is every First Friday. Invite your friends to come & go deeper into the Mystery of the Sacred Heart. She will have copies of the book for sale for those who want to go deeper.



THE FEAST OF ST. ANTONINUS is May 10th. Come for the noon Mass on that Saturday & enjoy fellowship with our patronal saint & each other. The 150th anniversary of this parish will be celebrated on our favorite feast, Pentecost Sunday, when it all started in a little house on S. 9th 150 years ago.

MAY IS OVERLOADED ...

...with 150th anniversary celebrations, First Communion, in May 18th, Mother's Day on the 11th, Ordinations & Anniversaries, graduations, etc.

BUT ABOVE ALL, KEEP IN MIND OUR LADY'S WARNINGS

...PRAY, PRAY, PRAY especially a daily of not more rosaries...which as she said, can avert war.

A DEAR NURSE FROM HONDURAS lives near the Friary & is looking for help as a caregiver. She is bilingual, has lots of experience & with 2 children to support is in desperate need of work. If you can help, call Elo Jean at 646 545 9899 or call Eileen at 848 448 0868.