



The Baltimore Beacon

The Redemptorists of the Baltimore Province

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Provincial Ponderings



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

As we prepare to enter the Sacred Season of Lent in a few weeks, I would like to share with you some thoughts on silence which should be a part of our Lenten journey.

Silence is more than the absence of noise. It is more than just tuning out noise and sound around us. It needs to be creative. Peter Minard writes: *“Not merely an absence of noise, Real Silence begins when a reasonable being withdraws from the noise in order to find peace and order in his inner sanctuary.”*

We enter into quiet and stillness to find our inner sanctuary. What is a sanctuary but a sacred place? A sanctuary is the sacred area of a church around its tabernacle. Jesus, the Son of God, resides in every tabernacle on earth and when we enter into silence and our own inner tabernacle, we are able to meet our Lord once again. Yet in that inner sanctuary we are often

uncomfortable, nervous, on edge. How often do we flip on the radio or the music to drown out the “raging silence” that is all around us? We fill up our inner beings with other things – good things in moderation – instead of allowing the Lord to fill up our inmost self.

Thomas Merton writes: *“If we are afraid of being alone, afraid of silence, it is perhaps because of our secret despair of inner reconciliation.”* Perhaps we don’t want to meet our God. Perhaps we are afraid of what He has to say to us. Perhaps we don’t want to hear where He is asking us to go, where we need to change, where we need to let go. If we can keep the busy-ness of noise around us then we don’t need to go to our inner sanctuary and meet our God. No need to follow, no need to change, no need to reconcile with God if we never hear Him. Later Merton writes, *“In silence we face and admit that gap between the depths of our being, which we consistently ignore, and the surface which is so often untrue to our own reality.”*

But we are an active Church, and we are a social people. We are not called to be a group of hermits who never speak. We are a community of brothers and sisters with a call to genuine sharing of ourselves on a human level. We need to be able to speak to proclaim the Good News. We need to be able to discuss with one another so that the community can be built up. Again to quote Merton, *“We*

are perhaps too talkative, too activist, in our conception of the Christian life. Our service of God and of the church does not consist only in talking and doing. It can also consist in periods of silence, listening, waiting.”

There is a time and place for everything under the heavens. There is a time to be silent and a time to speak (Ecclesiastes 3:7b). We can find a million and one reasons on why we need to speak, why we need to have noise but are they reasons or excuses? Because again if we are quiet and still, we might encounter the Lord. Isaiah 30:15 reads: “For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel: By waiting and by calm you shall be saved, in quiet and in trust your strength lies. But this you did not wish.” Again, it is more than the absence of noise, silence is the gift to simply be and do nothing.

The practice of silence and the willingness to listen helps the self-giving love of Christ to replace the frenetic self-improvement of the world. God does not operate at the speed of light, but in the easily ignored gentle whisper (cf. 1 Kings 19: 12). The habits of silence and stillness are an invitation to back away from the noise and chaos that the world praises and into a more attentive and responsive life. Perhaps in this Lenten season our habits can be defined not by what we give up, but what we pay more attention to.

*In the Spirit of the Redeemer,
Paul J. Borowski, C.Ss.R.*

Upcoming 2022/2023 Dates

Monday, February 21-Wednesday, February 23, 2022 Province Retreat (Southeast Region) at St. Alphonsus Villa; New Smyrna Beach, FL

Thursday, February 24, 2022 Province Jubilee Celebration (Southeast Region)

Monday, May 9 - Friday, May 20, 2022 North American Conference Assembly & Phase 1 of the XXVI General Chapter at San Alfonso Retreat House; Long Branch, NJ

Tuesday, May 31 - Thursday, June 2,

2022 Province Retreat at San Alfonso Retreat House; Long Branch, NJ

Tuesday, July 5 - Thursday, July 7, 2022 A Summer Break “Coming Together as Confreres” at San Alfonso Retreat House; Long Branch, NJ

Upcoming Dates, Continued

Wednesday, July 6, 2022 Province Picnic at San Alfonso Retreat House; Long Branch, NJ

Saturday, July 16, 2022 at 11 a.m. Province Jubilee Celebration: Mass & Luncheon at Sacred Heart of Jesus; Baltimore, MD

Saturday, July 23, 2022 at 10 a.m. Priesthood Ordination for Brian Vaccaro, C.Ss.R., at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception; Washington, DC. Bishop Michael Burbidge (Arlington, VA) is the ordaining Bishop

Saturday, August 13, 2022 at 11 a.m. Priesthood Ordination for Royce Thomas, C.Ss.R. at St Anthony's; Guapo Cap-de-Ville Main Rd; Point Fortin, Trinidad. Archbishop Charles Jason Gordon (Port of Spain, Trinidad) is the ordaining Bishop

Monday, August 15, 2022 Convoking of the XVIII Provincial Chapter

Sunday, September 11 - Friday, October 7, 2022 XXVI General Chapter (Phase 2 -- Canonical Phase); Rome, Italy

Tuesday, November 29 – Thursday, December 1, 2022 Province Convocation at San Alfonso Retreat House; Long Branch, NJ (Tuesday, November 29, 2022 will be Provincial Candidates Day)

Monday, March 13 – Friday, March 17, 2023 and if necessary Monday, March 20 – Friday, March 24, 2023 XVIII Baltimore Provincial Chapter at San Alfonso Retreat House; Long Branch, NJ

Communications Updates

- Daily Audio Podcasts on the readings of the day may be found at redemptorists.net in either Spanish or English.

- Weekly Video reflections on the upcoming Sunday readings (Cycle C) may be found on Facebook: [facebook.com/RedemptoristsBaltimore](https://www.facebook.com/RedemptoristsBaltimore) or YouTube: [youtube.com/](https://www.youtube.com/)

BaltRedemptorists. These videos are released each Wednesday.

- Saturday, March 19: On-line video service “Praying with the Icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help.”

Upcoming EPC Meetings

Future EPC meetings will begin at 9:30 a.m. via ZOOM until further notice

- March 23rd – 24th, 2022
- April 27th – 28th, 2022

- NO MAY MEETING
- June 15th – 16th, 2022
- July 6th, 2022 (San Alfonso; Long Branch, NJ)
- NO AUGUST MEETING

- September 7th – 8th
- October 19th – 20th
- November 16th – 17th
- December 2nd (San Alfonso; Long Branch, NJ)

Confreres celebrating a significant anniversary of Profession and/or Ordination in 2022

Profession Jubilees

70 Years Professed (1952)

*Lennon, Robert

65 Years Professed (1957)

*McGowan, John

*Travers, Thomas

60 Years Professed (1962)

Harrison, John

Milton, Kevin

Gildea, Arthur

Szymkowiak, Gerard

Miniscalco, Donald

50 Years Professed (1972)

Sergi, Michael

40 Years Professed (1982)

Borowski, Paul

Bradley, Alfred

Gaddy, Kenneth

McGillicuddy, Sean

Vadakkedath, Clement

Priesthood Ordination Jubilees

65 Years Ordained (1957)

*Lennon, Robert

60 Years Ordained (1962)

*McGowan, John

*Travers, Thomas

Anniversaries, Continued

50 Years Ordained (1972)

Gilmour, James
Donovan, Charles
Skelly, Francis

Daigle, Eugene
Wise, Mark

40 Years Ordained (1982)

Koncik, Adam Michael

25 Years Ordained (1997)

Riquelme, Alvaro

Upcoming Missions, Retreats, and Video Series

- **Feb. 26-March 1**, St. Patrick Catholic Church, Armonk, NY, Kevin MacDonald
- **March 5-8**, Parish Mission: "Walking in the Dark, Living in the Light of Christ," St James Catholic Church, Johnson City, NY, Phil Dabney, Francis Gargani, James Wallace
- **March 5-9**, at St. Paul Catholic Church, Tampa, FL, Kevin MacDonald
- **March 7-10**, Lenten Mission at Blessed Sacrament Church, Westminster, CA, Peter Linh
- **March 11-15**, Parish Mission: "A Time to Grieve, A Time to Hope," Ascension Catholic Church, Melbourne, FL, Phil Dabney, Francis Gargani, James Wallace
- **March 11-16**, Lenten Mission at St. Philip Phan Van Minh Vietnamese Catholic Church, Orlando, FL, Peter Linh
- **March 12-16**, St. John Paul II Catholic Church, Perth Amboy, NJ, Kevin MacDonald
- **March 12-16**, Lenten Mission at Holy Name of Jesus Church, Brooklyn, NY, Denis Sweeney,
- **March 18-20**, Lenten Mission at Our Lady of Lavang Parish, Ottawa, ON, Peter Linh
- **March 23-27**, Lenten Mission at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Greensboro, NC, Peter Linh
- **March 25 at 7:30 p.m.**, Lenten Evening of Reflection at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Mountainside, NJ, "Prayer in the Alphonsian Tradition," Dennis Billy
- **March 26-March 30**, St. John Neumann Catholic Church, Charlotte, NC, Kevin MacDonald,
- **March 26-30**, Parish Mission: "Walking in the Dark, Living in the Light of Christ," St Anne Catholic Church, Beaumont, TX, Phil Dabney, Francis Gargani, James Wallace
- **March 31- April 3**, Lenten Mission at Vietnamese Martyrs Parish, Tukwila, WA, Peter Linh
- **April 2-6**, St. Lawrence the Martyr Catholic Church, Redondo Beach, CA, Kevin MacDonald
- **April 3-6**, Parish Mission: "Walking in the Darkness, Living in the Light of Christ," St Jerome Catholic Church, Weymouth, MA, Phil Dabney, Francis Gargani, James Wallace
- **April 6-8**, Lenten Mission at Our Lady of Lourdes, Seattle, WA, Peter Linh
- **April 9**, Day of Reflection and Prayer: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Villa Pauline Retreat and Spiritual Center, Mendham, NJ, The Paschal Triduum: Celebrating our Identity and Agenda as a Church of Missionary Disciples, James Wallace
- **April 13-17**, Holy Week Retreat at Mariandale Retreat and Conference Center, Ossining, NY, Francis Gargani with Staff of the Center
- **April 23-27**, Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, Erie, PA, Kevin MacDonald
- **April 29-May 3**, Parish Mission Theme: "Preaching to the Hungers of the Heart," Nativity at St. Leo Church, Tully, NY, Phil Dabney, Francis Gargani, James Wallace
- **April 30-May 4**, Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Osceola Mills, PA, Kevin MacDonald
- **July 5-7**, Retreat to the Trinitarians at their Provincial Headquarters in Baltimore, MD, Kevin MacDonald
- **July 9-13**, Parish mission at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in West Harwich, MA, Kevin MacDonald,
- **August 26-29**, Retreat to Redemptorist seminarians at San Alfonso in Long Branch, NJ, Kevin MacDonald

Mission Grammar School and the Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching



Our scholars are living the Gospel, on the road to college starting at just three months old at Mission Grammar School in Roxbury, Massachusetts. And during the 2021–2022 school year we have been sharing with our scholars and families one of the best kept secrets of our faith, the Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching:

- Solidarity
- Life and Dignity of the Human Person
- Call to Family, Community, and Participation
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
- The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers
- Care for God's Creation

During our recent Catholic Schools Week 2022 celebration, we were reminded of our mission as Catholic educators to help our students reach



their full potential. The seven themes act as a road map of the values and ideals we want our scholars to learn during their time at Mission Grammar School.

For the first half of the school year, we focused on solidarity; life and dignity of the human person; the call to family, community, and participation; and care for God's creation. As a faculty

and staff, we had rich conversations about these four themes throughout the first half of the school year, and have articulated them as Catholic educators into a commitment to our scholars.

Life and Dignity of the Human Person: We believe that every child is innately brilliant and aim for each to explore and grow in their brilliance every day at Mission Grammar. We focus on a holistic education, raising caring leaders for life as they build a deeper relationship with God, while also supporting the growth of each child in a culturally diverse environment.

Care for God's Creation: Since 1889, Mission Grammar has been a jewel in the Mission Hill neighborhood. Knowing that 80% of the brain is developed by age 3 and 90% by age 5, we thrive on innovation and intentionality in our Early Childhood program. We offer the only Catholic infant-through-grade-six program in greater Boston. We care and nurture our scholars and prepare them for high school and beyond by instilling values in them that will make them be excellent contributing members of society.

Call to Family, Community, and Participation: The strength of our school is our community, both within and beyond the school walls. We work closely with families, engaging them in every step of a scholar's academic experience. Our approach is rooted in positive relationships with all community members. Additionally, Boston is our extended classroom, and we have regular field trips and explorations for all ages to learn from Boston's historic neighborhoods.

Solidarity: We serve scholars and families from diverse ethnic, racial, religious, and socioeconomic backgrounds. We are an inclusive campus, where scholars learn from and are enriched by their peers. We stand in solidarity with our scholars and families as brothers and sisters in Christ. And we are a supportive faith community that is there for each other throughout life's joys and challenges.



Using the Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching to guide our school community this year has been incredibly enriching. We look forward to continuing to grow and develop as Catholic educators using the teachings as a map to assist our scholars on the road to college!

Dr. Mark Harrington, Advancement Office at Mission Grammar School

Notre Dame Retreat House, Canandaigua, NY

Notre Dame has withstood the impact of the covid-19 pandemic as well as any other ministry of which I am aware. But did it hurt us? Absolutely.

We had been set to have the best year at the retreat house. Retreats to be given by the retreat house team (Mrs. Nancy Lynch, Sister Carole Proia, SSJ, Father Tom Travers, Father Frank Jones) were booked full or almost so. Other religious groups that utilize the retreat house were also booked solid.

Our outreach to non-Catholics was growing with Lutherans, Episcopalians, Coptics, and other bookings at least two years in advance. The African-American churches in Rochester had started coming and all was looking great...and then the pandemic... and everything stopped. I was forced to cancel all programs from March 18, 2020, forward. I was forced to lay-off most of my staff and found myself asking God the question that I think most in ministry were asking: Why?

When it became available, we were fortunate to get the first small business loan from the federal government and I brought back my staff. The retreat team began meeting and we quickly determined to do something/anything to reach out to our retreatants who now couldn't come to us. We put together and gave a ZOOM retreat to the largest men's group that would ordinarily fill the retreat building. It was very well received. We then put together two internet prayer services that were posted to our website, and they also went very well. Father Tom Travers, C.Ss.R., has begun giving a weekly reflection on the upcoming Sunday's readings. And although it's still in the planning stage, we hope to reach out in a more stable and substantive way with talks and prayer services in the future via the electronic media. Slowly we began allowing groups to book the retreat house but at seriously reduced numbers...first 12, then 20, then 35, and now 50.

As we have all learned to "live with" the coronavirus, we have begun once again offering our usual programs

but still at a reduced number of participants. We have limited the numbers out of a continuing concern for the safety of everyone, and we have also introduced one new program. We were already giving regular monthly days of prayer but changed that for what we have called "A Desert Day of Prayer." This began in September 2020 and was limited to 15 participants. A bag lunch was provided at noon and there was Mass was together at 2 p.m. On these days spiritual reading material was made available to participants, and they were then told to find a quiet nook to meditate and pray alone and in silence. The program was so well received that we've determined to keep it as one of our programs for the future.

We are now cautiously moving ahead. We are allowing the retreats we give to number 50 people. Other groups are eagerly coming back to us as well. God willing things will eventually get back to normal.

Frank Jones, C.Ss.R.

News and Notes from San Alfonso Retreat House

San Alfonso Retreat House has been the grateful recipient of the many gifts and talents of Fr. Ed Faliskie, C.Ss.R., since his arrival at the Retreat House. Father Ed's kind and gentle manner, his generous spirit, and his prayerful presence bring great blessing to the community, the retreat house staff, and the retreatants. In addition to his gifts for preaching and presiding, Ed's 'eagle eye' for seeing the challenges of physical repairs and enhancements, not to mention his talent and energy to tackle them, only add to the gratitude we all feel for his being here and sharing in our retreat ministry.



We are up and running after a quiet January due to ongoing challenges of the COVID health crisis. We look forward to a schedule of activities for

February, Lent, and springtime. Please see our website for information on upcoming programs and events. We are looking forward to our Lenten "Soup for the Soul" Series on the four Tuesday evenings of March and to Lenten days of prayer that will bring us to our Holy Week Retreat. March will see the start of the 2022 preached weekend retreats. The theme is "Real Presence: Gift of God and Blessing to One Another." This retreat will invite us into a deeper awareness of the grace and power of real presence - with God, with ourselves, with others, and with all creation.

Saint Vincent, Garifuna Bakery Reopens



Committed young persons from the parish and community worked tirelessly to clear mud, ash, and fallen lumber from inside the bakery. Barrow after barrow of debris was wheeled out to the road for pick up by a steady chorus of dump trucks – not known for melodious sounds, but now creating a symphony of solidarity among relief workers.

The cutting of wood and pounding of hammers soon gave rise to a new song

The Garifuna Bakery, located in Sandy Bay, is owned and operated by the Roman Catholic Church. Begun under the auspices of the Diocese of Kingstown, oversight of bakery operations falls to the parish of Saint Benedict, now staffed by Redemptorists of the Baltimore Province.

The bakery roof collapsed under the weight of heavy ash from volcanic eruptions in April of last year. Compounded by torrential rains and subsequent rushing water from the mountain above its location, the bakery – to put it mildly – was a mess after the natural disasters. Over twenty-five years of continuous service to the local community came to a grinding halt on April 9, 2021 – the date La Soufriere volcano first erupted. Suddenly the bakery, and all of Sandy Bay, was in the Red Zone.

As a result, dedicated associates of the bakery were out of work overnight. Homes were evacuated, schools opened doors as shelters, and families out of immediate danger swelled as relatives and friends were welcomed to board. As night turned into day, many wondered how long it would last. Occupancy of the Sandy Bay area and beyond was strictly restricted for several weeks. By early June, with clearance from the armed-police checkpoint on the road, passage was possible; however, under extreme caution. Roads, still filled with ash and fallen trees, made for dangerous detours, and curves – difficult at times to navigate under normal circumstances – was more treacherous due to limited visibility ahead. Yet, the vision was clear: the Garifuna Bakery must reopen!

– one of renewed hope as work on the bakery roof began. Fortunately, local laborers, who are usually committed elsewhere, were available. Given their considerable talent for masonry and carpentry, coupled with dedication to the church and community, and a longing for freshly-baked bread, motivation ran high. Although it took nearly a month to complete, the roof seemed to rise in no time thanks to the skills of those involved.

With shelter now in place, work moved to the inside. New counters were built, electrical wiring and accessories were restored, and plumbing work repaired damaged pipes. Rusted ovens were given a good scouring and new gas lines to operate them installed. Name the need, it was there. Again, in gratitude to the local craftsmen and young volunteers, work moved along at a steady pace.

Garifuna Bakery, Continued



After hard work from the community and generous donations, the bakery is back open and able to serve homemade bread and more to the community.

Passersby began to wonder if the bread was ready. Soon, they were told. “When?” Soon come, in common parlance, soon come. As they waited and hoped, the exterior and interior of the building received fresh coats of paint. Clean up of the yard, especially in the back where water raged and left an indelible mark, continued. And, a deep trench was dug so as to divert further water from wreaking more havoc to the building. Final touch-ups here and there were also in the works. Opening day was, perhaps, just around the corner.

A goal of Christmas was in sight for the renaissance. The staff gathered with excitement to clean and prepare for production and sales. A new commercial refrigerator was purchased and installed, and a chest freezer was relocated from another site. Testing of the two large ovens proved positive. Not so, however, with the main mixer. Working when electricity was restored,

it failed to operate when the switch was turned on. What would have been a batch of bread for Christmas Eve bowed to the reality that, without the mixer, no creature could stir, not even the baker.

The passing disappointment gave way to joyful celebrations of Christmas. During the week, one of two known mechanics on-island skilled in mixer-motor repair was found. He came to the bakery as a wise man, charging for his services not by the hour but by experience. Through the gift of his hands, the hum of the mixer now lifted the hearts of staff and volunteers as if it were a newly composed Christmas carol. A slight, unrelated, plumbing problem then arose. A village farmer able to attend to the need was quickly summoned. Leaving his fields, he too brought his gift. All saw and believed that the rebirth of the bakery was near at hand.

In spite of the difficulties, there is cause for rejoicing and much to celebrate – always keeping in mind through whom the work is accomplished. The bread begotten, baked, and broken comes from the bounty of the Incarnate One. His birth beckons those near and far. Poor shepherds and kings alike come, each bearing gifts, each having a place at the crib.

From Bethlehem – a name meaning House of Bread – the message is always celebrated anew. True in a special way this year for all who helped restore the bakery mission. With gratitude to all – volunteers, staff, laborers, and donors – doors reopened on January 12. Excitement fills the air as friends from near and far are welcomed once again to the Garifuna House of Bread in Sandy Bay!

Kevin R. Murray, C.Ss.R.

Partners in Mission, St. Lucia

The Assumption Parish Partners in Mission decided to assist the needy in their local communities after having been inspired by the North American Partners in the Mission Zoom Retreat in October. Partners in Vieux Fort, Dierre Morne, Pierrot, and Grace chose families with children who could use some assistance for the holidays. Families were given either a food hamper or \$100. The goal moving forward is to tutor the children who have fallen behind due to not having in-person class for over a year and to have separate sessions with the parents to address their needs.

Fr. John Olenick, C.Ss.R.



Partners in Mission, Boston: Inspired by the Spirit



This past year at Mission Church we have been so very blessed to see our “Partners in Mission” group continue to grow. To be honest, I was not quite sure how our “group of disciples” would materialize, and once formed, exactly how we would move forward in this endeavor.

However, these past months have revealed a foundational truth that must be acknowledged, and it is simply this: **It is without question that the Holy Spirit indeed rests secure at the heart of every circle that makes this prophetic “leap of faith” into the dark.**

It is by the grace of the Holy Spirit that each group indeed finds its own identity – its own unique calling. It is the Holy Spirit that sets the proper tone for each meeting, helping us all to understand the “ebb and flow” that is so necessary at the beginning of this endeavor. It is the Holy Spirit that enlightens the members to recognize their own unique calling, their own unique contribution of personality, spirituality, talent, and grace.

Each of us, humbly entering into personal prayer within the inner sanctuary of the heart; each of us seeking the grace of enlightenment of the Spirit will **gather as a whole**, that we might bring a true **gift of self** that allows the **whole** to be fully receptive and responsive to the ever-present movement of the Holy Spirit. We come to see that there is no person within this “circle” that is a copy of the other and that each disciple within the

group is **indispensable** to the whole – **indispensable** to the work of the Holy Spirit. It also becomes **crystal clear** that it is the intention of the Holy Spirit that our group **continues to grow** – that it **remains ever open** to those who will – according to God’s holy design – respond to the calling of the Spirit – as the months and years go by.

And as we continue to meet, we pray that the breath of the Holy Spirit will inspire and guide us to an ever-deeper commitment of self. We pray that we may always respond with full measure to the unmistakable energy that is moving us all forward in the holy work of discipleship with Christ. How blessed we are and how humbly we give thanks for the guidance and grace that has been so abundantly bestowed upon this little “circle of disciples.”

Anthony Michalik, C.Ss.R.

“I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go. I will give you counsel with my eye upon you”
(Psalm 32, v.8).

St. Alphonsus Villa Happenings

Nancy Zito celebrated her 90th birthday with a party at St. Alphonsus Villa. She still works at the Villa as a kitchen helper four days a week. She's been with the Villa for over 20 years. We also recently hosted an Anointing of the Sick for our community on February, 11, World Day of Prayer for the sick.

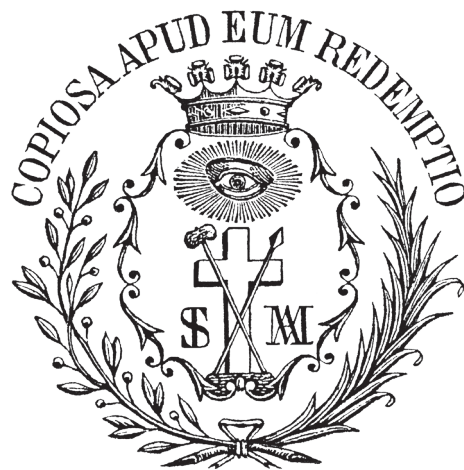


Top Left: Fr. Felix Catalá enjoying a festive glass of wine.
Bottom Left: Fr. Ed Faliskie visited during the Anointing of the Sick.
Above: Nancy with Archbishop Edward Gilbert.
Top Right: Group shot of the celebrations at Nancy's 90th birthday party.
Bottom Right: Fr. Gene Grohe also visited the Villa during the Anointing of the Sick.



Deacon Brian Vaccaro celebrates his first baptism in the Parish of Ntra Sra de Juquila





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