



# Immaculate Conception Our Lady of Perpetual Help

2619 Cedar Street – Everett – WA -98201  
(425) 349-7014  
[www.ic-olph.org](http://www.ic-olph.org)



July 12, 2017

Dear Parishioners of Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parishes,

It has been a busy several weeks since I stepped in to help out during Fr. Hersey's absence, and I wanted to provide you some updates as to what the staff has been up to and where our efforts will be focused throughout the summer.

First off, Fr. Hersey is doing well and he sends his love, prayers and thanks to you all. He has been enjoying the letters and care packages and is upbeat and positive in his recovery. He is truly appreciative of our many prayers. He asked me to express to you all that you are in his prayers daily.

A few big "thank you's" are in order. The Corpus Christi procession through Everett had over 200 participants. It was a powerful witness of our faith and love for our community. Thank you to all who planned and participated. Also both parishes have achieved their Annual Catholic Appeal goals. Thanks for your support of the broader work of the Church in Western Washington. The sendoff for Fr. Watson was great as many parishioners attended. Please look for opportunities to welcome our new Parochial Vicar, Fr. Francis to our community in the month of July. Fr. Francis Le is a Dominican priest who was ordained in 2004. His most recent assignment was as a parochial vicar at Blessed Sacrament in Seattle, since July of 2013.

## **IC/OLPH School**

Our school year has come to a close and we have graduated another terrific class of students. Special thanks to Kathy Wartelle and her fabulous teaching staff for the important work they do to develop the minds and hearts of all our students. Our school is in a great position as we look to the 2017/2018 school year as our enrollment numbers and our financials are strong. The school, or rather the kids in it, are the future of our community! Sausage Fest is in full planning mode, please support this important community event that enables us to bring down the cost of Catholic Education. Special thanks to Chairman Matt Henggeler and all the volunteers that make it possible.

## **Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish**

As I started this position, I was welcomed by many parishioners, but one not so welcomed greeting was a broken sewer line at Our Lady of Perpetual Help campus. It has been an expensive repair (\$25,000) that needs further attention. We were fortunate to be able to cover the expenses with reserves, but as a result the reserves are at a low level. There are a number of other necessary repairs (most notably the boiler in the parish office, \$20,000) before us and there are a group of parishioners that are working on the go forward plan. By now, I trust you have seen information regarding this in the bulletin. On the positive side collections have been strong and we have achieved our Annual Catholic Appeal targets. We have also finished a survey of Mt. Carmel Cemetery which has provided us a better picture of future burial capacity. We sponsored a wonderful celebration of Our Lady of Fatima which featured some beautiful singing and dancing. The Vietnamese community put on a wonderful Pentecost celebration with its highlights being activities on the parish lawn and a spectacular BBQ!



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## Immaculate Conception Parish

At Immaculate Conception Parish we are also working on a number of facilities related issues. It has become clear that we are having difficulty controlling access to the church building due to many keys being out in the community and the code access for the Eucharistic Adoration Chapel. This is a concern for two reasons, the first being the need to provide a safe environment and the second being the risk of misuse. We have begun installing a card key system for all the external access points and many of the internal rooms. In addition we will be installing and rekeying other internal access points. This will not affect the code access for Eucharistic Adoration. We will also be repainting the basement complex with much needed assistance from our Hispanic community. In addition, the Hispanic community has embarked on V Encuentro. This is a four year program that discerns ways the Church in the United States can better respond to the growing Hispanic/Latino presence, and strengthen their presence in our churches as “missionary disciples; witnesses of God’s Love”.

## Parish Staff Summer Activity

As we move into the summer months the staff will continue to focus on executing and planning programs for our community. Beth Rosales will working on the Vacation Bible Camp, planning the path forward on Journey with Jesus, marriage preparation and restarting the Faith Formation Commission. Tony Guidottie continues to drive this summer’s full offering of youth programs; SCREAM, Transformers, Steubenville Conference, The 300, and Seattle Mission Trip. He is also already working on next year’s Confirmation program (register by 7/31). Sr. Cecilia and Sandra Alvarez continue to support and nurture our dynamic Vietnamese and Hispanic communities. Bridget Harris is focused on leading the office staff, ensuring our financials are strong and our facilities are in good repair. I would also like to again thank Charlotte McCoy and wish her the best as she retires and moves closer to her beautiful grandchildren. The unsung heroes of are community are some of the people behind the scenes, Cathy and Ed Aldrich who do maintenance and custodial work and so much more. Shellie French, our bookkeeper who always has her finger on the pulse of our cash flow and expenditures. The people who faithfully count the collections every Tuesday, the people serving through St. Vincent de Paul, the people who volunteer their time to our liturgy (altar servers, musicians, lectors, extraordinary ministers, ushers, greeters). And there are many more who deserve our thanks. Lastly, thanks to Deacon Dennis and all the visiting priests that are filling the ministerial and sacramental gaps throughout the summer.

In closing, I would like to say thank you to everyone who has made me feel so welcomed and supported in this role. You are what makes this work so rewarding. I wish you all a blessed summer and don’t hesitate to get in touch if I can be of assistance.

Blessings...

Duane Schireman

Parish Administrator