



Shrine Welcomes a Special Visitor

When Shrine Pastor Father Liam left this summer for Ireland, a new face and personality stepped up to the altar. Parishioners were both surprised and delighted to meet Father Christian Ezek from the Okigwe Diocese of Nigeria. Father Christian had only been in the United States for four weeks when he assumed responsibility at the Shrine Parish. His British-American accent was difficult to understand at first, but parishioners gradually became accustomed to it. All of his education, he explained, was in English (with a British accent, of course!)

Father Christian is a diocesan priest from Nigeria with extensive experience in his eleven years of priesthood. He taught in the diocesan seminary and was pastor in the large city of Lagos with 10,000 parishioners and six young priests as his assistants.

His parents were teachers and are still living in Nigeria. He was a younger child of eight siblings and was born on Christmas Day. That fact and being named Emanuel almost destined him to be the family priest! But from that time as a small child, he liked the idea.

All of his family are well educated. One sister is a professor at the University of Georgia, another a nurse in California, and a brother who teaches

college in California. One brother, who worked in Germany, was killed when he returned to Nigeria for a family Christmas reunion.

Lawlessness and widespread corruption are constant evils in Nigeria. The country produces great quantities of oil and probably would be able to provide better care for its people if it were not for the corruption. Money is siphoned off by dishonest politicians, government workers and business people. Politicians are known to assassinate rivals before elections. Even the ordinary policeman is known to take bribes contributing to corruption. This evil leaves many poor citizens without enough to eat and living in extreme hardship and misery.

Father Christian expressed surprise and pleasure by his welcome shown by the people of the Shrine. They were friendly and kind. However, he was surprised that there is so little knowledge of Africa on the part of Americans. He chuckled that he had "never met any elephants or tigers on the streets of Lagos."

Parishioners were impressed with the young priest and loved his simple but profound homilies. They wish him well, wherever God leads him. He is currently in California with family and taking college classes in Sacramento, and no doubt, sharing his talents with another American parish.



Father Christian Ezek

Notes of Interest from Father Liam



Father Liam
Courtney

■ The parish needs to start a Boys Scout organization, beginning with the Cub Scouts. Scouting is good for young people: character forming and teaching responsibilities. It aids with Christian development and many leaders, both religious and lay, have come from Scouting. We need leaders and assistants. August Cordova hopes to get this started for the parish.

■ Another new organization for the parish is Venture. This is intended for older young people, ages 14-21. It is co-ed and based on the principles of the Boy Scouts with activities and projects. August hopes to form this organization as well.

■ A new Marian Catechism and stories with lovely, colorful illustrations has been written and illustrated by Kathy Bleichrodt of Beulah especially for children. Kathy has been showing the books outside the church. Anyone who wishes to see a copy, or to purchase a copy, may see one at the rectory office from August.

■ Anyone who would like to join a church group or volunteer to help may contact the Council of Catholic Women or the Knights of Columbus. Now that the summer has ended, both groups are actively planning new projects.

We thank God for all of our blessings! Many wonderful possibilities lie ahead this year.

—Father Liam

Here to Help at Mass

Difficulty in hearing or seeing at Mass? In the entrance foyer of the church is a brown basket with copies of the Seasonal Missalette, which gives the readings and prayers in large print, easy to see booklet, especially for you. Take a copy when you enter for Mass.

"A blessed way to use your Time"

Visit the Shrine's website at:
www.puebloshrine.org

The site includes links to times of Mass, the parish bulletin, *The Rose* archives, parish staff, Handbook, news, and more!

THE ROSE

A publication of the Catholic community of the Shrine of St. Therese, 300 Goodnight Avenue, Pueblo, CO 81004.

—OUR MISSION—

The Shrine of St. Therese newsletter is to reach out and inspire a sense of community and family by means of a regular and timely publication.

Spiritual Adviser
Father Liam Courtney

Editor
Sally Stricca

Contributors:
Jan Alfonso, Bill Hrutky

Photographs for this issue:
Audrey Murray, Sally Stricca

The Rose is published four times a year. Parishioners are encouraged to submit articles for publication to the editor.

August Cordova Named Religious Ed Director

Tina Sandoval returned to teaching math at Pueblo West High School this fall and was replaced by August Cordova as the new Religious Education Director for the Shrine.

August comes to the parish with four years of experience from the Historic Southside Catholic Parishes. He is a native of Pueblo, baptized and raised in Holy Family Parish. His parents are August E. and Kathleen Cordova. He is one of five children.

He graduated from Central High School and USC (Pueblo). In 1998 he went to Harvard University where he earned a Masters Degree in Education with a speciality in working with Youth at Risk. While working in Massachusetts schools for two years, he decided the Eastern USA was not to his liking. He longed for Colorado and returned to Pueblo. Perhaps, it was the time of the year or simply providential that the job available came through Father Edward Pettit at the newly combined Historic Southside Parishes. August found himself uniting the religious education program for three parishes and combining his educational back-

ground and the love of his religion and Catholic faith.

While in high school he worked with the Search Program extensively and found that program helped steer him into the educational field.

In 1993, he attended the first World Youth Day in Denver and went on to travel to all of Pope John Paul II's World Youth Days, including the last one in Toronto in 2002. He found all of them very inspiring and uplifting. They crystallized his desire to work with youth,

Since entering the religious education field, August studied theology graduate classes at Dayton University and completed classes for Certification in Youth Ministry.

He finds the combination

of educational and religious teaching gives him a sense of satisfaction and the special niche where God will use him.

August is married and his wife, Regina, is from New Mexico. The joy of their life is little Elijah, their son of 14 months. August feels blessed to have Father Liam's support and looks forward to working with the families and children of the parish. ♪



Mr. August Cordova
Religious Education Director

Rosary Is True Folk Prayer

October is the month of the rosary. It is really the folk prayer of the people of God. It started with Angel Gabriel's greeting to Mary.

In the Middle Ages, all of Europe—the priests and the monks—prayed the psalms seven times a day. They were called the Divine Office, but today known as the Liturgy of the Hours. However, the lay people of that period were mostly illiterate and could not read the psalms. Still they longed to participate in the prayers of the church.

Legend says that an Irish monk in the 890 encouraged his people to say the *Our Father* 150 times. You

have heard the term "paternosters". That is where it comes from. But the people could not keep track of how many they said. Soon they carried little pouches with 150 pebbles in them. Later someone thought to use string with knots tied to them and a single wooden cross. Somehow they devised beads into decades, using *Our Fathers* and *Hail Marys*. The second half of the *Hail Mary* was the petition part and was added. ♪



A Parish Celebration 2005



Young people playing happy music from Stephanie Whited's Bluegrass Band



Everything looks s-o-o good for Pauline Webb (front) and Rose Shaddy



Smiles from longtime parishioner—Virginia Cacciatore—enjoying dinner



Visiting brother from Society of Our Lady of the Trinity at Capulin

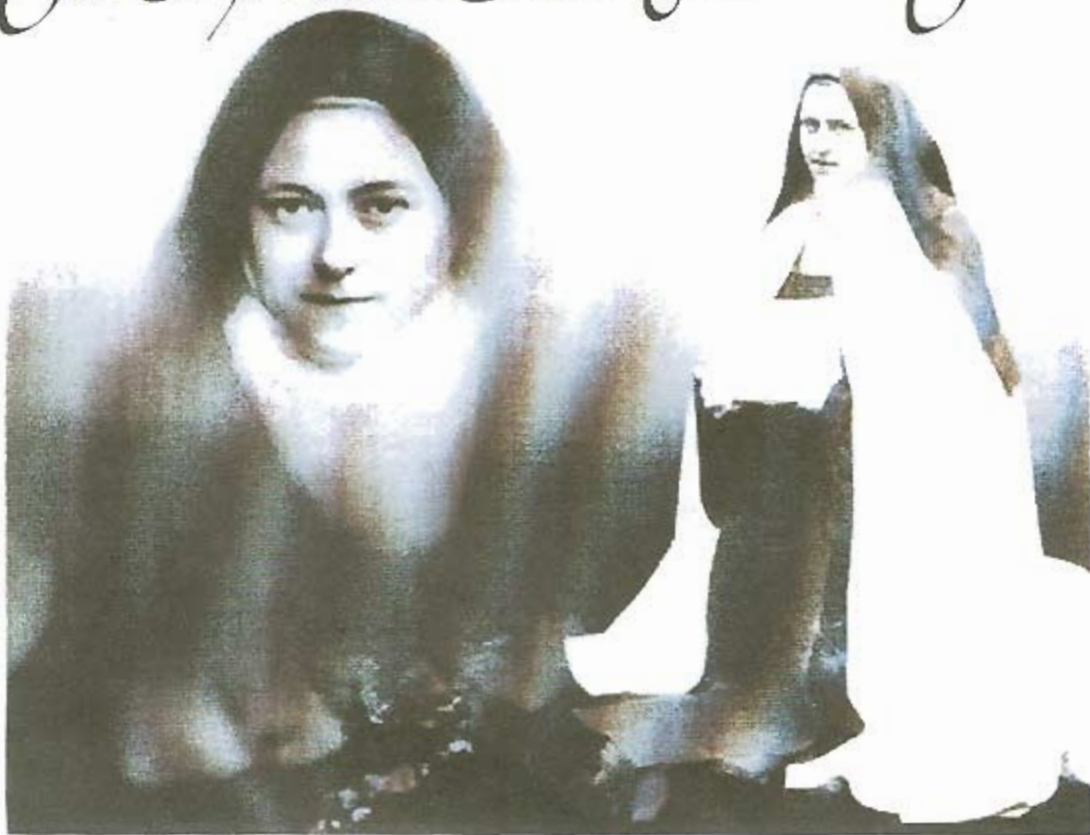


Spaghetti lovers! The Beltran boys, sons of Nancy and Marty Beltran

The Parish Celebration held in late June was very successful! Father Liam was delighted with the number of parishioners who participated. It seemed the whole parish turned out to visit and socialize at the picnic style dinner held this year in our air-conditioned hall. The raffle, bingo, etc. made a profit of about \$6,000.

*A Rose Photo
Texture*

St. Therese--Our Patron Saint



A few years ago, her relics were transported around the world to many large cities and churches. If the thousands of people who came to see and pray are any indication, she is one of the most beloved saints in the world.

St. Therese of Lisieux, or commonly called the "Little Flower" is the patron saint of our parish and of the Pueblo Diocese. We even have a first class relic of her. Each year we have a nine day novena in her honor.

St. Therese entered the Carmelite Convent at the young age of 15. She lived a simple life in an uncommon awareness that all of our acts done in the love of God, have great value.

She read her Bible and writings of St. John of the Cross. In speaking of her prayer life, she said, "I just say what I want to say to God and he never fails to understand."

If she felt isolated from God or lazy about praying, she said the *Our Father* and *Hail Mary* slowly and thoughtfully. The spiritual dryness was a common problem for Therese, as it often is for us. She was wise to know that the purpose of prayer is not to satisfy us, but to please God. And so she kept right on praying. A powerful lesson for us and a reminder that God will not be outdone. Remember, He sent His son to redeem us, so trust Him.

MEMORIALS

Thanks to all who contributed to the Shrine of St. Therese Memorial Fund.
The list includes the months from May to September 23, 2005

Belma Afanador

Mrs. Lourdes Gutierrez

Gerri Alfonso

M/M Lawrence Alfonso

Joseph M. Autobee

Mrs. Eleanor Filler

Rose Conatore

Mrs. Josephine Betts

Liliane Dunado

Mr. Steven N. Dunado

James A. Eck, Sr.

Mrs. Mary Eck

Eileen C. Eurich

Mr. Edward Eurich

Therese Evans

Steve/Jean Hiza

Lou Fraterelli

M/M Fred DiNero

John Greco

Bob/Eilene Even
Mrs. Colletta Junta

Esther Jones

Mrs. Myrtle Spitzer

Donald Jordan

M/M Herbert Beeman
Steve/Jean Hiza

Alfonse Kneib

Miss Helen Knieb

Edward Krall

Miss Sharon Trontel

Mac G. Lauricello

Mr. Roy Lauricello

Father Joseph McGuinness

Mrs. Myrtle Spitzer

Augustine Mariani

M/M Fred DiNero

Betty and Brian Miller

M/M Ernest Atteberry

Therese Ursick Monroe

Mrs. Mary Ann Ursick

Vera O'Doriso

Carmella Dionisio

Pauline Pantleo

M/M Frank Pantleo

Steve Pershin

M/M Frnk Pershin, Sr. (Mom
and Dad)

Edward (Bud) Rickoff

M/M Herbert Beeman

**St. Jude and St. Catherine of
Siena**

M/M Patrick Wyndle

Harold Stoddard

Mrs. Margaret Stoddard

Tony Tadaro

M/M Frank Pantleo

Christine Torgler

Mrs. Myrtle Spitzer

Fred J. Ursick, Jr.

Mrs. Mary Ann Ursick

Gary S. Ursick

Mrs. Mary Ann Ursick

Jim Ward

Anna Marie Baxter
Ronalda Jean Buhler
M/M Anthony Colistro
Dr. Donald/Mary Creager
Marty/Barbara Dosen
Elly Dyer
Employees of State of Colo.
Dept. of Transportation,
Region 2
Karen Sue Larkin
Marvin Layman
Bruce/Karen Lundberg
Susan McDaniel
Pisciotta Farms
Pueblo Bearing Service
Pueblo Brake & Clutch
M/M Edward Ross
Frank Taulli
Miss Susan Ward
Ranald/Linda White

Virginia Zangaris

Mrs. Mary Eck

Pictures You'll See When You Visit Our Website (www.puebloshrine.org)



Some Irish Songs and Maybe a Wee Pint or Two

What Father Liam Does in Ireland

Every summer when Father Liam leaves for Ireland on vacation, Shrine parishioners and even priests, ask me, "What does Father do in Ireland?" Being a city person, with limited knowledge of farming, but knowing that Father returns to his 400-year-old farm, I usually reply, "He probably digs up potatoes." Everyone laughs.

This year I decided to dig up some answers. Father just grinned and shook his head when I began the interview. First, his family members, oversee the cutting and storing of hay and silage for the cattle. This is done by commercial workers. But it is needed because they have a variety of cattle, one breed being the American Angus. There were other breeds, but due to Father's brogue and my spelling, it is impossible to list them on paper.

Care for the peat is an important agricultural necessity. Peat is partially decomposed plants and mosses found in the bogs or marshland. It has been a main source of heat for hundreds of years. It is a petrified wood-like material that contains a gas that helps it burn.

The peat is brought by tractor trailer to the farm where it is stored in a shed for the winter. Father

Liam's family uses it in their main fireplace like coal. It has a pleasant smell. The rest of the house is heated by an oil fired central heater and the cooking is done using oil.



There is always quite a bit of general maintenance and repair on the house and fences. This year Father built a patio and did a lot of rock work.

In between the physical work, Father visits the local St. Mary's Church three or four times a week to say Mass. The little town near his farm is called Drumlish and that is where the church and public school are located. Incidentally, all of the public schools are national schools where the Catholic faith is taught.

Father Liam also visits the elderly and the local hospital. He hears confessions and says Mass at Our Lady of Knock

Shrine.

Much of his time is devoted to visiting family, especially, visiting his brother's family. Also, Father and his sister, Kathleen Murray, often go out to sing Irish songs and to drink some pints of Guinness. Mostly, he enjoys walking the fields and being an Irish farmer/priest for a few weeks in the country of his birth.

—Sally Stricca

Holy Stewardship

October is the month the Shrine Parish thinks seriously of stewardship. A few thoughts are taken from the booklet by Rev. Andrew Kemberling, pastor of St. Thomas More church in Littleton, CO.

"Spirituality of Stewardship"

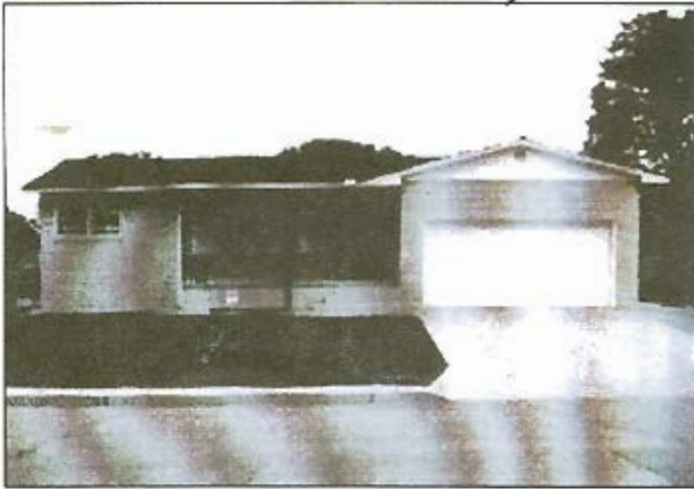
"We are created by God for God. In a very real way, we are not our own. We belong to God . . . The fact remains, if we are not our own, then the things we have are not our own either . . . God lets us have



these things and asks us to be good stewards. Even our talents are not our own. They too belong to God."

Learn to trust God. Learn to love. "Love is the requirement of a Christian. It is not optional . . . Love is not self seeking. Love itself requires one to give. One cannot love if all one does is to receive. Love requires us to give, to give of ourselves. God cannot be outdone in generosity."

Father Liam's New Rectory . . .



Father Liam has moved to another rectory that is located closer to the church at 105 Mariposa. This house was the home of a deceased parishioner and was purchased. His former rectory remains for sale, and anyone interested may call the church office for details. (719-542-1788).

Shrine
on the
web

Visit the website at:
www.pueblo Shrine.org

Diocesan web: www.dioceseofpueblo.com
Parish Knights of Columbus 12720:
www.kofc12720.org

First Grade Proverbs

A first grade teacher collected well-known proverbs and sayings. She gave each child in her class the first half of a proverb and asked them to come up with the remainder of the proverb. Here are some of their own insights (in italics).

Strike while the—*bug is close.*

It's always darkest before—*Daylight Savings Time*

Never underestimate the power of—*termites*

You can lead a horse to water but—*how?*

Don't bite the hand that—*looks dirty*

No news is—*impossible*

A miss is as good as a—*Mr.*

You can't teach an old dog new—*math*

If you lie down with dogs, you'll—*stink in the morning*

Love all, trust—*me*

The pen is mightier than the—*pigs*

An idle mind is—*the best way to relax*

Where there's smoke there's—*pollution*

Happy the bride who—*gets all the presents*

A penny saved is—*not much*

Two's company, three's—*the Musketeers*

Children should be seen and not—*spanked or grounded*

If at first you don't succeed—*get new batteries*

You get out of something what you—*see pictured on the box*

When the blind lead the blind—*get out of the way*

51004+1020-31 032

MR JACK M B SELWAY & SHERRY
KOSKI
231 DITTMER AVENUE
PUEBLO CO 81004

NON-PROFIT ORGAN.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PUEBLO, COLORADO
PERMIT NO. 57

The Shrine of St. Therese
300 Goodnight Avenue
Pueblo, Colorado 81004
Phone: (719) 542-1788