



# Impala Informer

Summer 2015

## Pastor's Corner

By: Rev. W. Bry Shields

frshields@stignatius.org

Dear Friends:

At the very end of His earthly life, in the wake of His cruel and bloody

death on the cross, our Lord brought hope and new life to the disciples. At the conclusion of His Resurrection appearances to the apostles and other followers, Jesus left them with a definite mission: "Go out into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation" (Mark 16:15; cf. also Matthew 28:19, Luke 24:47).

As we anticipate (some eagerly, others not so eagerly!) the beginning of a new school year, I invite you to consider the 'Great Commission' Jesus left to the Church. As a parish community, whether young or old, we are all called to proclaim the gospel, the good news of Jesus' life and the salvation He offers.

Throughout the coming year, the parish will be offering opportunities to learn exactly how we can proclaim the gospel in our homes and communities. In September, we have Fr. Leo Patalinghug coming to visit us. Known as the 'cooking priest', Fr. Leo has challenged Catholics to proclaim the gospel in their

own homes, by the simple but profound act of saying grace and sharing a meal together. At the dinner table, everyone can participate, and families can grow in love, understanding, and respect. The joys and sorrows, hopes and struggles of daily life can be shared, and lifted up to God by invoking His blessing on the meal, and praying not only for the immediate family but for the poor and needy in our city and around the world.

In October, our own Dr. Norman McCrummen will give a series of presentations on famous saints in our Catholic tradition. By learning more about these holy men and women, we can glean insights into how we, like them, can proclaim the gospel in our own day and time.

This summer, in the wake of the Obergerfell decision and the release of the Planned Parenthood videos, many people have become more keenly aware of the depth and ferocity of the forces arrayed against



marriage and human life. Now is the time, not for retreat and wringing of hands, but for concrete action to bring before our contemporaries the powerful and healing message of the gospel, bringing to humankind all that is good, true, and beautiful, found in the person of Jesus Christ.

This year, Proclaim the Gospel! By our words and deeds, may others see our good works and glorify the Father in heaven.

May God bless you and your families.

Sincerely,

Fr. Bry Shields

**Daily Mass Schedule**  
M-F 6:15 and 8:00 a.m.  
Saturday 8:00 a.m.

**Mass Schedule**  
Saturday 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday  
7:30 & 10:00 a.m., 5:30 p.m.

**Confessions**  
Sunday: 7:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m.  
and 5:00 p.m.

Saturday: 7:45 a.m. and  
3:30 p.m.  
Tuesday 3:45 p.m.  
By Appointment

**Adoration**  
Tuesday 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Holy Hour 4:00-5:00 p.m.

### Upcoming Events

**August 17**  
School Begins

**August 30, 10:00 a.m.**  
CYO Mass /Pancake  
Breakfast

**August 21-22**  
One Faith One Family

**September 29**  
Fr. Leo Patalinghug  
9:00 a.m. in the church  
6:30 p.m. School Gym

# Summer at St. Ignatius

From the Principal by Gary Blackburn

[blackburng@stignatius.org](mailto:blackburng@stignatius.org)

The summer's almost over and I know you all are making your final "back to school" plans. We've been busy over the summer at St. Ignatius. The biggest cosmetic changes will come in the middle school building. We have installed new carpet, new ceiling tiles and all walls received a fresh coat of paint. Those floors not carpeted were all refinished. It looks like a brand new school up there. The art room and science lab were also spruced up for the school year. Our maintenance crew did a fantastic job and we are grateful for their hard work.

Another big change I've already addressed will take place with our fifth and sixth graders. We will have just two teachers for each grade to better meet time requirements for classes and alleviate the number of class changes. Our sixth grade teachers will be Mrs. Elizabeth Collins and Mrs. Jill Ackermann. Mrs. Collins will teach math, science and religion while Mrs. Ackermann will teach English, literature and social studies. Our fifth grade teachers will be Ms. Catherine Blackwell and our faculty's newest addition, Ms. Taylor Fesenmeier. Ms. Blackwell will teach math, science and religion while Ms. Fesenmeier will teach language arts and social studies. Taylor completed her Elementary Education degree from the University of Southern Mississippi last December. In January and February, she substituted in Ocean Springs, Mississippi for a teacher on maternity leave. She also substituted for us during the last few months of school and now joins us full time. We have two other new additions to the staff. Ms. Haley McHugh will be our middle school language arts teacher. Haley takes the place of Catherine Woodyard, who leaves us to teach English and Literature at McGill-Toolen. Haley recently finished her degree in Elementary Education at Spring Hill College. Though a Louisiana native, she has decided to live in Mobile and we are very glad to have her. Mr. Aaron Odom will be partnered with Mrs. Laura Ellis for P.E. Aaron has a bachelor's degree from South Alabama and is currently completing his PE and Science certification. Aaron will replace Ms. Danielle Johnson who will be finishing her degree and will be student teaching in the public school system. We certainly wish Ms. Johnson

and Ms. Woodyard the best.

We were fortunate to hire Taylor Fesenmeier to teach 5th grade but it was because we lost a great teacher to retirement. Mrs. Pat Sullivan has served the St. Ignatius community for 33 years. She started out as a teacher's aide and soon thereafter moved to full-time teaching. Pat did a fantastic job of getting kids to read and write. Due solely to her efforts of encouraging our students, St. Ignatius continues to be the number one producer of student works in the annual Young Author's Anthology, sponsored by the Metro-Mobile Reading Council. We hope Mrs. Sullivan has a wonderful retirement and enjoys traveling with her husband David and visiting her sons and grandchildren.

We have two big technology changes to tell you about. Our record-keeping software is from a company called Rediker. The software is Administrator's Plus. We will install a new program called Parent Portals for you to view all information with regard to your children. We will no longer be served by Edline beginning August 1st. Our teachers have already begun training on Portals and our next step will be to make sure you can work effectively with the new program. We will continue our training during the faculty planning week. I believe our parents will find it much more user-friendly and much easier to navigate.

Secondly our 6th, 7th and 8th grade teachers will receive ipads to ultimately prepare for 1:1 devices in middle school possibly starting in the 2016-17 school year. They will do some training and research this year to best utilize the devices for our students in the coming years. Our goal is to fully prepare the students for McGill-Toolen who will start their 1:1 program this year.

We are looking forward to another great year next year with full enrollment, great parents and students and outstanding teachers. I sincerely appreciate everything you do for St. Ignatius School and Church and hope you had a restful, relaxing and refreshing summer. God bless you all.

## Christians, called to proclaim the Gospel

Fr. Daniel Owuor, Parochial Vicar

frowuor@stignatius.org

We are all Christians, Christ followers. Christian is a name derived from that of Christ himself. The name refers to all those who have been anointed through the gift of the Holy Spirit in Baptism. According to the Holy Scriptures (Acts 11:26), it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called Christians. In giving this name to the followers of Christ, the pagan inhabitants of Antioch recognized in them a group quite distinct from the Jews and their synagogue. What was initially a nickname soon became a noble name for those who adhered to Christ. Christianity is God telling us in Jesus Christ who we truly are. The bottom line of our Christian calling is to proclaim the gospel message of Christ (#proclaimthegospel) in our different vocations.

This summer, my religious superior asked me to do two things: first, to study, research and make a comparison between the spiritualities of St. Francis of Assisi and mother Teresa of Calcutta or Kolkata. This is in line with the celebration of the Year of Consecrated Life as announced by Pope Francis. My studies about them have led me to the following conclusions: these were two authentic Christians, two inspiring teachers, two specialists in prayer, two messengers of love, two angels of mercy, two ambassadors of peace, two apostles of evangelization, two models of gospel simplicity, two examples of Christ-like humility, two champions of radical poverty, two gentle rebels of God, two charismatic spiritual leaders and two gigantic proclaimers of the gospel in deed.

Living as they did seven centuries apart, Francis of Assisi (1182-1226) and Mother Teresa of Calcutta (1910-1997), these two can be considered as the two most influential Christians to have made a substantial contribution to the human society in general and to Christianity in particular. They remained closest to their ideal in life, Jesus Christ, and made every effort to live His life in totality. Secondly, my Superior asked me to preach mission appeals and fundraise for our seminarians studying in USA.

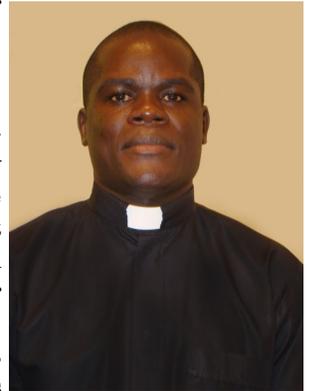
My travels took me to different parts of Dallas, Shreveport, and New Orleans proclaiming the gospel of Christ. I celebrated Masses and spoke at dinners telling folks about St. Francis and our Franciscan Missionaries of Hope (FMH) story. It was an awesome experience. My other assignment in the USA is to spiritually direct and mentor our seminarians who come over for their priestly training. I have to attend their evaluations in the seminary with the seminary staff, see to it that their needs are met, their theology is sound and that they are positively responding to God's calling. All is tutored towards making them good proclaimers of the gospel. When all is said and done, I have to then recommend them for priestly ordination. It is a heck of a job, if you ask me. So far, God's grace has seen me through since it is indeed sufficient.

When I visited St. Christopher the Martyr parish in New Orleans, I told the story of St. Francis. At one time in his life, St. Francis of Assisi had a terrible fear of lepers. One day when he was out for a walk, he heard the warning bell that lepers were required to ring in the middle Ages. When a leper emerged from a clump of trees, St. Francis saw that he was horribly disfigured. Half of his

nose had been eaten away and his hands were stubs without fingers. Instead of giving in to his fears, Francis ran forward, embraced the leper and kissed him. St. Francis' life was never the same after that episode. He had found a new relationship with God, a new sensitivity to others and a new energy for his ministry. By doing so, he proclaimed the gospel of the Lord in deed. This is what the Lord wants of us, to proclaim the gospel message in deed.

A leper had no right either to medical care or to other kinds of help from the community. Lepers wore tattered clothes and uncombed, uncut hair of mourners. When meeting any "sound" person, a leper had to cover his mouth with one hand and shout out a warning of his/her own "unclean" condition. Lepers were taken away from their families and forced to live in leper colonies or in caves outside the city. Anyone suspected of having contracted leprosy was to be taken before a priest for examination. Lepers lived like animals, without rights or privileges. It was the duty of the priests to decide whether a man was infected with leprosy and whether he was healed. Once the priest had examined a patient and declared him a leper, the afflicted person had to live in isolation, away from the dwelling places of healthy people, in order to prevent the spread of the dreaded disease.

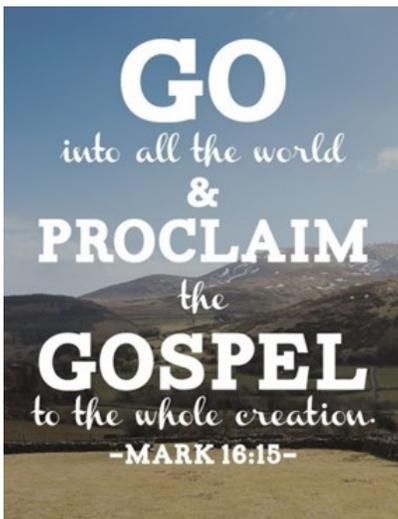
Proclaiming the gospel message is the work of the Holy Spirit, with our humble cooperation. Let us be optimistic in continuing our work of bearing witness to Him. We can all plant tiny seeds in the form of words of love, acts of encouragement, deeds of charity, mercy and forgiveness. Parents and teachers can plant a lot of seeds in the minds of their children and students. The Holy Spirit will touch the hearts of the recipients of these seeds sown by us and will effect growth of the kingdom in their souls and lives. As the apostle Paul once said: "Neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth" (1 Corinthians 3:7). Prayer is key in doing so. Pray Until Something Happens (#PUSH).



# Family Matters

By Tom & Caroline McDonald

mcdonaldc@stignatius.org



It has been a rough summer for Catholic families: the Supreme Court decision legalizing “gay marriage,” followed by the ruling against the Little Sisters of the Poor left many of us reeling. It is tempting to despair. As our oldest visits colleges and prepares for his senior year, we worry about the confused cultural mess in

which his generation will soon be immersed. We heard a wise priest say that the only remedy for this current chaos is happy marriages and holy families. We cannot win through Facebook arguments; it will come through the powerful witness of average families joyfully living the Gospel. That’s why our #proclaim campaign cannot come at a better time. We must “Go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel,” as Christ urges us to do in the Gospel of Mark. Thankfully here at St. Ignatius we are blessed with a number of opportunities to be equipped and empowered to do this very thing. We know fall is crazy busy for families, but we believe that making the sacrifice of time to attend some of these events can be transformative for your household.

**1. Bring everyone to the *One Faith One Family* conference August 21-22.** This is an amazing event with absolutely first-class speakers and musicians, designed for all ages. During sessions for the adults, the kids can attend their own mini-conference, with crafts, songs, and inflatable jumpers everywhere. Think giant VBS. On Friday night there’ll be an amazing concert with Matt Maher, a giant in the world of contemporary Christian music. He’ll end with praise and worship and Adoration. Just that part alone can be life-changing for your teens and preteens. Learn more at [www.onefaithonefamily.org](http://www.onefaithonefamily.org).

**2. Take your spouse on a date!** Show the world that the Catholic vision of marriage is awesome! A great way to establish a date night tradition is to attend our monthly Marriage by Design dinners.

Come relax with other couples in the parish and enjoy a catered meal plus words of encouragement and wisdom from really good speakers. First one for this school year is Thursday, September 10, 6:30-8:30 in the Marian Center. Watch the bulletin as we get closer for more details.

**3. Come with your teen to watch Fr. Leo cook.** You don’t want to miss this. Fr. Leo is a multi-talented priest who does martial arts, hip-hop, and is a famous chef! (You may have seen him defeat the competition on that Food Network show *Throwdown! with Bobby Flay*.) He will be here at Ignatius for multiple events, but the one designed especially for families is on Tuesday, September 29. Fr. Leo will be giving a special talk for teens and parents while cooking us dinner! (Geared for grades 7 to 12; teens must attend with at least one parent.) More details on how to sign up will be coming soon. Other parishioners may attend too, as space allows.

**4. Eat dinner together and say grace first.** This is incredibly hard to pull off, but so worth the effort. You’ve seen the stats, but they are worth reviewing as we begin another sports season and start juggling football, volleyball, cheer, and soccer practices. According to the *National Center on Substance and Addiction*, when comparing adolescents who eat dinner 0-2 times a week with their families and those who eat dinner 5-7 times, those who eat with their families more frequently are 40% more likely to talk to their parents about a problem. Meanwhile, 171% of the teens who don’t eat with their families note more tension at home. Academic performance went up 38%. Kids were 142% less likely to smoke, 93% less likely to drink, 191% less likely to use marijuana and 169% less likely to have more than half of their friends be drug users. Wow. St. Ignatius is also joining Father Jonathon Morris’ campaign to say grace before meals, no matter where we are. He is encouraging us all to post pictures of our families praying together around the table using #saygrace. You don’t have to stick with “Bless us, O Lord.” Try the blessing the kids learned at Mom’s Day Out and pre-school; kids love that one.

Hope to see you all at these and more parish family events. Remember, “the very future of humanity passes by way of the family.” St. John Paul II.

## Tiny McPhillips, Mom's Day Out Director

[mcphillipst@stignatius.org](mailto:mcphillipst@stignatius.org)

As I write this, the staff and I are all preparing for our little ones' arrival at Mom's Day Out this year! Excitement is in the air as we make name tags, label folders, spruce up the classrooms and put a fresh coat of paint on shelves! We have a brand new floor in the 2K building which makes everything look bright and clean, and the new sails are flying high providing our shade on the playground. There's nothing like the beginning of a school year, is there?

In this year of focusing on "Proclaiming the Gospel", I cannot help but believe that our Early Childhood Program here at St. Ignatius does just that each and every day. The families of our parish bring us their babies with trust and the belief that we will care for, play with, and teach their precious

children. We pray, we play, we giggle, we sing, we dance, we paint, we sometimes cry!!! We learn about basic things like washing our hands and using our manners, but more importantly, we hear about Jesus and His love for us.

We are a miniature community of God's children as we learn and play together. What a terrific way to spread the Gospel of our Lord!

Tiny McPhillips



## Vickie Murray, Director of CYO Sports

Kevin Carey, Committee Chair

[murrayv@stignatius.org](mailto:murrayv@stignatius.org)

[cystignatius@gmail.com](mailto:cystignatius@gmail.com)

CYO Sports has begun! St. Ignatius Parish will be well represented on the fields and on the courts this fall. We have 4 football teams (90 players), 6 girls soccer teams (63 players) 6 boys (co-ed) soccer teams (63 players), 4 cheerleading squads (100 girls), and 5 volleyball teams (50 players). Thanks to all our parents who signed your children up in timely fashion using the online registration and website [www.goimpalas.org](http://www.goimpalas.org).

We look forward to a GREAT season. Please remember CYO sports is a ministry of the parish. We want and encourage ALL the children in school and Religious Ed to be a part of this community. Our program is blessed with many wonderful volunteer coaches, coordinators, and moderators. This year we will bless our athletes, parents, and coaches at the 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, with a pancake breakfast in the café following.



I wanted to share with you some thoughts from Father Shields:

*Some people do things only so they will be popular. They want to be seen as important in other people's eyes. Sometimes athletes can be this way; they try to be great in the eyes of others and are very self-centered. But you know what? The popularity or greatness they try to get is going to perish. One day, others won't think they are so great, or they may even lose their athletic ability.*

*The Christian athlete is different, he plays for what endures, and what endures is God. Last Friday, we had the feast of our parish patron saint. His motto is Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam, AMDG for short. It means for the greater glory of God. St Ignatius taught that we should do things not so others will think we are great but so that we will give honor and glory to God. When we do things for the glory of God, we do things in the way that pleases Him. And guess what? There is no I in AMDG! And there is no I in TEAM. So we should play our best and respect each other because love and respect endure and don't perish. We are a Christian team, so we are not playing for ourselves, so we will be great, but we are working AMDG – for the greater glory of God.*

*Go Impalas! And go to Mass Sunday so you can receive the Bread of Life, and have the strength to work for the glory of God.*

**Brittany DeFalco, K-8th Religious Education**

[defalcob@stignatius.org](mailto:defalcob@stignatius.org)

## Cut the routine, and shake things up a bit!

Another summer break has come and gone and just like last year I'm left with the same questions—didn't we just celebrate Mother's Day two weeks ago? How can it be time to start another school year already? Well, get ready folks! Like it or not, a new school year is here. Time for the school traffic (surely they will finish up the McGregor project before then—yikes!), and the uniforms (I swore she had tons of growing room left a few months ago!), and beginning of the school year bedtime routines (Yes, it is still light outside but yes, it is still bedtime because it's a school night!). It's all here again in all its routine glory! But before you enter back into the same old, same old, why not check out some great new things going on in our Archdiocese. Why not make this new school year the year you change things up a bit and begin to PROCLAIM your faith.

First things first, as you have seen advertised in our own parish bulletin, the Archdiocese of Mobile is hosting its second annual Archdiocesan Conference-One Faith One Family, August 21-22. The One Faith One Family Conference is a great opportunity to gather as a community of believers and PROCLAIM the living presence of Jesus Christ within our community. James and I went with our kids last year and had a faith-filled and enjoyable time. It was nice meeting and being surrounded by other people of faith that shared our same values. Not to mention, the childcare was very well done; there were all kinds of activities for the kids to enjoy within their own age groups and it was all very organized and secure. So whether you are young, old, single, married, child free or child bearing, this

is the conference for you. Do something different this year--check it out

[www.onefaithonefamilymobile.org](http://www.onefaithonefamilymobile.org)!

So let's just say that you're choosing to cut the same old, same old and focus on PROCLAIMING your faith. PROCLAIMING your faith can be very difficult (and intimidating) when you feel like you don't have any of the answers or know what you are talking about. That is where this next Archdiocesan program comes in, *The Be Prepared Pope John XXIII Apologetics Series*. This series consists of twenty 1-hour lectures that will take place this year on a lecture topic per month schedule. After a lecture topic is presented for a whole month at different times and locations, another topic is taught the following month. These lectures will cover a range of topics such as why there is suffering to purgatory and indulgences. Also, for those that are feeling extra crazy and thinking about possibly volunteering for Religious Ed (you know where to find me), there will be an opportunity for you to become a certified catechist by completing two additional components alongside the lectures. As we read in 1 Peter 3:15 "Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope." So, why not check it out? All are invited to "come and grow in your knowledge and passion for the Catholic Faith to be inspired and prepared to give a reason for the hope we have in Christ." For more information visit: [mobilefaithformation.org](http://mobilefaithformation.org).

Are your children of school age but enrolled in a non-Catholic School? If so, the St. Ignatius Religious Ed program is the one for you! Classes run, Sundays, September 13<sup>th</sup>-May 1<sup>st</sup> from 4-5:15PM. Registration for the 2015-2016 Religious Ed program for grades K-8th is going on now. Contact Brittany DeFalco, PCL @ 251-605-1384 or [defalcob@stignatius.org](mailto:defalcob@stignatius.org) for details!

## My Experience on Mission in Ecuador

Ellis Glass

Before returning to Ecuador, I was flooded with a mixture of different emotions—excitement to go back, curiosity about what to expect, and most of all fear that my experiences this year would not live up to the incredible adventures I had in Ecuador last summer. Upon arriving in Misahuallí, I quickly realized this year's mission trip would not be the same as last year; we were staying in a different place, and we did new things, such as spending a night in a community. One aspect of being on a mission trip is that the full-time missionaries do not inform us what our schedule is until right before we do something. On our fifth night in Misahuallí, we were told that the next morning we would split up into two groups and travel to two different communities to spend the night. Although we were nervous, we were all pretty excited to stay the night in a village because how often do we get this opportunity?

The next morning, we departed from Misahuallí, and my group travelled almost an hour in trucks to a village called Tomi Orko, or Rain Hill. We started out our day in Tomi Orko by going to the houses of sick people in the community to pray with them. We visited a man named Thomas Carlos who has cerebral palsy, and it hit me that this man is lying in his bed dying, and he welcomed us, strangers from another country, into his home to pray with him. How amazing is that? Later that night, we were invited into a home for dinner, and the family prepared a meal for us then sat outside so that we could all fit in their home and eat their food. Honestly, if strangers showed up on my doorstep, the last thing I would do is make them dinner and sit outside while they ate in my house. That night, we slept on cheap pool rafts in a wood-

en house, and the next morning, we woke up at 4 a.m. to make guayusa tea with the locals, which they do every morning at the same time before they go to work. After we finished our bowls of guayusa tea, they brought us all bowls of chicha, which is a fermented drink made from chewed up yucca. While chicha is not the most appetizing drink in the world, the fact that they worked so hard to make it for us, people whom they don't even know, proved how generous and loving they are. It absolutely astonishes me how these people will do anything they can to make us feel welcome in their community. In 2 Corinthians 9:7 St. Paul says, "Each one *must do* just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." The people we met in Tomi Orko are definitely the most cheerful givers I have ever met in my life. Their hearts are set on pleasing God by giving generously to anyone they encounter, whether it be their neighbor or someone from another country. These people not only gave us guayusa tea and chicha, they gave us love and a true sense of generosity, and that is something that we will take with us forever.

When I came home from Ecuador this year, many people asked me which year was better, and all I could tell them was that they do not compare. It's not because one was better than the other, but because I had two completely different experiences, and they were both inexplicably amazing. Once again, my mission trip to Ecuador exceeded my expectations, and the people I encountered there impacted me in ways I cannot explain. I hope and pray that all of us left such an impact on them.



*Left:* The village of Tomi Orko (Rain Hill) where we spent the night after serving and evangelizing. *Bottom Right:* Us drinking guayusa tea with the locals. *Bottom Middle:* Making the guayusa tea. *Bottom Left:* Us praying over Thomas Carlos in his home.



# ST. IGNATIUS

3704 Springhill Avenue  
Mobile, Alabama 36608  
251-342-9221  
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## Wild About Impalas!







