

SPCC Happenings



850 W. 4th St.
Fallon, NV 89406
775-423-2846
st.patricksfallon@yahoo.com

Volume IV Issue 3

Website: www.stpatricksparish.org

March 2015

Bishop Straling Blesses 2015 Parish Council Members



BLESSING—Bishop Straling, assisted by Deacon Carlson, prepares to pray over the parish council members serving St. Patrick’s during the next year.

On Sun., Feb. 22, at the 8 a.m. Mass members of the 2015 Parish Council of St. Patrick Catholic Church were blessed and officially installed. Bishop Phillip Francis Straling, Bishop Emeritus of Reno, assisted by Deacon Kurt Carlson of St. Pat’s, was the celebrant and presided over the informal ceremony.

Serving the second year of their two-year terms are Patty Fleming, Paul Loop and Cheryl Venturacci. Newly selected by parishioners to fill positions vacated by those whose terms expired are Joanne Berg, Callie Black Ben Leynes and Linda Tews. Ana Cornejo was appointed to the parish council as the Hispanic community’s representative.

At the Feb. 24 meeting of the parish council officers were chosen. Patty Fleming and Cheryl Venturacci will work together as co-chairs, while Joanne Berg will be vice chair. Callie Black as secretary will record the minutes of the meetings. Linda Tews will be in charge of Outreach. Outgoing members are Marvin Landaverde, Pete Larson, Marty Maffi and Julie Richards. Congratulations to the new parish council members and many thanks to those whose terms expired!

Parish council meetings are normally held on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. in the new parish hall. Parishioners are always welcome to attend and are encouraged to provide their input on parish activities and concerns to any of the parish council members.

Meet New Parish Council Members



Born and raised in South Dakota, **Joanne Berg** came to Nevada in 1991 when she accepted a job with the Nye County School District as a speech/language pathologist. She moved to Fallon when she retired in 2008 at which time she joined St. Patrick Church. She has participated in various parish activities including Women of Grace, Bible study and prayer groups, lecturing, the Martha’s, and Joanie’s Pantry, and helps “whenever and wherever I can.” She views her responsibilities as a parish council member as representing parishioners as they spiritually grow and to assist Father Tony in pastoral planning.



Callie Black, a native of Nevada who has lived in Fallon all her life, worked with the parish’s youth group when she was a teenager, has served as a lector, and is currently a Eucharistic minister. “I believe our job, as members of the parish council, is to meld the needs of the Church with the needs of the parishioners,” Callie said. As a younger member she hopes to bring to the parish council new ideas and to enhance the appeal of being Catholic to the youth.

(Continued on page 2)



PARISH COUNCIL—Members of the 2015 Parish Council of St. Patrick Church awaiting Bishop Straling’s blessing are, from left to right, Patty Fleming, Linda Tews, Joanne Berg, Paul Loop, Callie Black and Ana Cornejo. Not pictured are Ben Leynes and Cheryl Venturacci who were not available at the time.

Our sincere thanks go to our four outgoing and dedicated members of the St. Patrick’s Parish Council—Marvin Landaverde, Pete Larson, Marty Maffi and Julie Richards—for two years of strong and prayerful service and leadership and care for our parish community. Your strength and wisdom will be missed!

—Patty Fleming & Cheryl Venturacci, Co-chairs, 2015 Parish Council

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Patty Fleming—Co-Chair
 Cheryl Venturacci—Co-Chair
 Joanne Berg—Vice Chair
 Callie Black—Secretary
 Linda Tews—Outreach
 Ana Cornejo
 Ben Leynes
 Paul Loop

YOUR PARISH PASTOR

Father Anthony Quijano, Jr.

YOUR PARISH DEACONS

Kurt Carlson, M.D.
 Ron Cherry
 Wayne Crooks

YOUR PARISH STAFF

JoAnn Luiz—Office Manager
 Jeannette Hale—Office Secretary
 Colleen Sabatino—Office Staff

MaryAnn Gomes
 Volunteer Office Assistant

Judy Carlson
 Volunteer General Assistant

KC Carlson—Custodian

Bill & Sandy Hillery
 Religious Education Coordinators

Ginny Dugan—Editor
 SPCC Happenings
 duganmv@cccomm.net

Apollo Vaz's Testimony of a Miraculous Cancer Cure

On Dec. 8, 2013 (Immaculate Conception) I began a series of testing to find out why I had jaundice-like signs and symptoms. An Endoscopic Ultrasound (EUS) with biopsy confirmed the diagnosis of Cholangiocarcinoma (common bile duct cancer), Stage IV (end stage). This news initially was very devastating, shocking, upsetting and saddening to me and my family. At St. Patrick Church in Fallon, NV, I received the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick from Father Tony, and later Bishop Randolph Calvo blessed me too. In addition, many people prayed over and for me to be cured. After undergoing two surgeries and 15 weekly chemo sessions, on Aug. 15, 2014 (Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary), my PET scan results showed significant improvement (about 80% improved). However, my regular prayers since becoming ill and my strong faith in God made me believe that I was cured 100% (and not just 80%). As a result of some cancer still showing on the PET scan, I continued my chemo and had periodical PET scans on Oct. 15, 2014, and Dec. 17, 2014. The results of these PET scans were identical to the one on Aug. 15, 2014. This meant that the cancer was stable showing neither worsening nor improvement. Once again my faith in God made me believe I was 100% cured on Aug. 15, 2014. So I convinced the radiologist and my oncologist that we need to do a more definite test than just the PET scan which continued to show some cancer. They agreed, and, on Dec. 23, 2014 (Dec. is Jesus Christ's birth month and the 23rd is my birth date), an EUS with multiple biopsies was done, and the results came back all normal with no malignancy. I thanked God and my oncologist (Dr. Tejvir Singh) when he told me my cancer is in complete remission (CR). My oncologist then gave me a broad smile, a huge hug and acknowledged the presence of a higher power. My family, relatives and friends were very happy hearing the good news. The next day my 10 year old daughter Vera was an altar server and I played the guitar in the choir for the Christmas "midnight" Mass. During the homily (sermon) Father Tony



TUTORING—Apollo Vaz, along with his wife Prima and daughter Vera, tutors students in math at the parish hall on Tuesdays from 3:15-5:15 p.m.

mentioned that I, my wife Prima and my daughter Vera are blessed with the biggest family Christmas present ever. In conclusion, my Cholangiocarcinoma, Stage IV, is in complete remission which I can certainly testify to be a miracle. Below is a quote written by me and explaining how my terminal illness strengthened and deepened my faith bringing me very close to God:

True faith in God is being one with Him.

It crushes Satan, removes fear and brings infinite happiness.

Printed with permission of Apollo Vaz, M.D., Ph.D.

Meet New (Continued from page 1)



Also a Nevada native **Linda Tews** was born in Elko and grew up in Tuscarora, about 60 miles north of Elko. She became a member of St. Pat's when she and her husband came to Fallon in 1987. Linda loved her participation in Women of Grace and became a facilitator for a Lovelock group that was formed. She has also been involved with Fallon Daily Bread and with the Angel Tree at Christmas. Being on the parish council is "another way to serve our parish," she said.



Traveling from Mexico **Ana Cornejo** was only six years old when in 1986 she and her family joined her father in Churchill County where he was already employed. As a member of St. Patrick's parish Ana has been an active participant in Sunday's Hispanic Mass and has attended multiple church-related workshops. She has also served as a translator. She regards her parish council role as being "a voice" for the Hispanic parishioners and to encourage their involvement in the parish community as a whole. (Next issue: Meet **Ben Leynes**)

Vaz Family Gives Back By Tutoring



Apollo Vaz and his family are offering their help to kindergarten through eighth grade students having difficulty with math. Every Tues. in St. Patrick's parish hall from 3:13-5:15 p.m. he, his wife Prima and his daughter and sixth grader Vera are conducting tutoring sessions.

"I wanted to give back to God because of my cure (from cancer)," Apollo stated as the primary reason for the idea. In addition, he learned that students can often fall behind in their math classes and "it's hard

(for them) to continue in higher grades" without having a good foundation in math. He felt he and his family could help.

The tutoring sessions are available not only for the children of parishioners but are also open to the community at large. There is no charge for the classes.

Interested parents may contact Apollo at 423-5343 (home) or 426-9684 for more information or to sign up their children for math tutoring. Thank you ♥ to the Vaz family for this valuable service!