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# NOTRE DAME CATHOLIC CHURCH

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## *2009 Fall Edition of our Parish Newsletter*

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### **From the Pastor, Fr. John Appiah**

In the words of Archbishop Oscar Romero, "It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view..." The truth is that while some of us are late comers, Notre Dame Parishioners have been hard at work in this wonderful enterprise for almost five years. I would like to thank Father Jim Harvey along with every person who has served in any leadership roll and all the people who have contributed to the GIFT Campaign. **THANK YOU, THANK YOU, AND THANK YOU!**

We have all heard "Rome was not built in one day." It is also true that Notre Dame was not and will not be built in one day, one month, one year etc, but will continue to be built for years to come. The martyr, Archbishop Romero reminds us, "We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent centerpiece that is God's work...We lay foundations that will need further development...We cannot do everything...We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own. Amen.

Now that we all have reasons to celebrate because of the construction, let us join together to see the project to completion. Our best days, visions, and dreams are all ahead of us. With the help each person provides through time, talent, and financial support we endow our parish with hope that is beyond measure and may be eternal. The gifts in kind—talent, time and treasure—are essential in sustaining basic ministries here at Notre Dame; therefore, I enjoin upon each parishioner to encourage one another so that we do not "grow weary of doing good; if we do not relax our efforts, in due time we shall reap our harvest."

My reflection on what it is like to be holy, generous, and love God and my neighbor as myself led me to the five new saints--Damien de Veuster, Jeanne Jugan, Zygmunt Felinski, Francisco Coll Guitart and Rafael Arnaiz Baron--canonized by Pope Benedict. Forgive me but wish to mention Father Damien de Veuster, and Sister Jeanne Jugan. The later, Sister Jeanne Jugan, a French Nun, founded the Sisters of the Poor and work in over 30 countries including the United States. They provide care for the elderly, especially the destitute caused by abandonment. The former, Father Damien de Veuster, a Belgian Missionary devoted his life to working with people with leprosy in Hawaii. He answered the call and, when he contracted leprosy, refused to leave and died at home "a leper with the lepers."

In all this I go back to the Savior's words to the Apostle Peter to work in his vineyard, "Feed my lambs.., Tend my sheep.., Feed my sheep and follow me." Again, **THANK ALL OF YOU** with the generosity with which you respond to the call to be part of all the many and wonderful things happening at our parish, Notre Dame Catholic Church.

The visit to our sister parish, Immaculate Conception in Haiti, was postponed because of the ill health of Father Alexis Osnel. It was amazing of course to have Father Alexis come visit with us here at Notre after his surgery in Boston. Well since his return home and subsequent checkup with clean bill of health, he has extended the same invitation for us to visit Immaculate Conception. The following are the dates December 4-10, 2009.

The following article appeared in the last newsletter and wishes to bring it to the forefront. It is with much anticipation and elation with the proclamation of Our Lady of Guadalupe as the Patroness of the Americas, the canonization of Juan Diego, the growth of the Spanish Speaking population—from Mexico and beyond—the devotion of so many Americans to Our Lady of Guadalupe and the pleading of our Hispanic parishioners here at Notre Dame that the Blessed Virgin of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be unveiled at the back of the Church following the celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Saturday, December 12, 2009.

Thank you to all our parishioners, supporters, and Benefactors of past, present, and in the future. Everything Notre Dame does is a direct result of your generosity. Let us foster Devotion to the Eucharist, the Holy Family; and let us be servants of God and imitate the example of the martyrs and saints.

On our Notre Dame Web page, some of you may recall the Ghana Medical Mission 2008 and the possibility of hosting Juliet for surgery. Well, I am glad to inform you that Juliet's case and cause is progressing. The doctors in Ghana have referred her file to the U.S. Immediately following an interview at the U.S Embassy in Ghana and if she is granted Medical Visa, then she and a guardian will be expected in the near future in The U.S. Juliet is out of school this year because of her seizures and the possibility of corrective procedure.

Lastly, the Medical Mission to Ghana 2010 is under way. My recent visit to Ghana set activities into motion. For example, registration for the clinic started. The cares to be provided are vision, dentistry, and general. The recruiting for doctors continue so is comparing medication prices in the U.S. and Ghana. **PRAYERS & SUPPORT ARE WELCOME.**