

St. Mary Parish

EVANSTON ILLINOIS

FEBRUARY 2011



Diversity Welcome in Music

If you think the black music scene includes only blues and jazz clubs, you need your consciousness raised. The Chicago Sinfonietta has been featuring musicians of color since 1987. The organization has become world renowned as they continue to provide opportunities for minority classical musicians, composers, and soloists. According to their Website, 55% of the Sinfonietta musicians are people of color, as are 46% of its audiences.

Maestro Paul Freeman, the founder and music director, has received numerous awards for his contributions to African American culture. Under his baton, the orchestra promotes policies of inclusiveness, while providing sophisticated performances.

It is noteworthy that the orchestra provides a variety of outreach pro-

grams. The African Heritage Symphonic Three-Volume Series. The Sinfonietta was recently featured in a one hour program on WYCC, Channel 20, that aired on Martin Luther King weekend. For more about them, please see their Web page at chicagosinfonietta.org.



Chicago Sinfonietta musician conducts outreach class

Photo: Dave Monk/ Brave New Pictures



Maestro Paul Freeman

grams. The Sinfonietta gives one or two fellowships per year to promising musicians of color. Members of the orchestra engage fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students at minority-dominated schools in programs to increase their understanding and appreciation of classical music. In addition, mentoring programs and master classes encourage gifted, young musicians.

As the fame of the orchestra increases, they are asked to give more performances, in more places, and their fame has increased worldwide. They are the official orchestra for the Joffrey Ballet. They have also released a number of recordings, the most notable of which is

Diversity Celebration at St. Mary's

The Peace and Justice Committee
Cordially invites you
to a Celebration of Diversity
On

March 5, 2011

A special Mass will be celebrated
at 5:00 P.M.

A potluck supper will follow Mass

*(More details will follow in the
March newsletter)*



Gerry and Emmeline
Hubbarth Named
Vision Keepers

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Begin Lenten
Preparations

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Hubbarths Named Vision Keepers

A special family moment was captured at the 2004 Block Party. Our Vision Keepers are shown with their son, Justin; our soup kitchen coordinator's son, Danny Larmee; Gerry; Danny's friend, Katie Bradford; and Emmeline.



Vision Keepers Dinner

The Hubbarths will be among those honored at the annual dinner, which will be held at the Hilton Orrington ballroom, on Sunday, February 20, at 5:30 P.M. Tickets are \$65, and reservations are due by February 7.

The featured speaker at this year's dinner will be Rev. Wendy Mathewson, an ordained Presbyterian minister, who is currently serving as a chaplain at Northwestern. The Vision Keepers ceremony will follow Wendy's speech.

Reservations may be made by calling or emailing Diane Currano, dcurrano@comcast.net or 773-465-0790.

There is a gospel story of Jesus preaching all day and facing a crowd of 5,000 hungry people as dinnertime approached. He bade the crowd to sit down and proceeded to feed them with five loaves and two fish that miraculously multiplied. If Gerry and Emmeline Hubbarth had been there, they would have rolled up their sleeves, started peeling the onions, and gotten the meal ready in short order. It probably would have been a more elaborate meal than loaves and fish.

St. Mary's chose Gerry and Em Hubbarth to be this year's Vision Keepers because of the graceful, efficient way they have fed our "multitude" over the years. They were married here in 1977, raised three wonderful children, and volunteered their time unstintingly.

At first, Gerry and Em only cooked for the huge St. Patrick's Day party. In the early

days, everything was home-cooked or cooked in the primitive parish school kitchen. Before there were baby carrots and catering, Em was organizing volunteers to peel the carrots and serve the corned beef that Gerry had boiled. And they did have volunteers! People were glad to work beside this dynamic duo who never appeared to give orders, but somehow managed to get people to do the work. Gerry and Em's volunteers would do anything for them. That was a big part of their magic.

Over the years, there have been many big parties. Just recently, the Hubbarths were in charge of the food for the Block Party that drew 350 people. Gerry had just had knee replacement surgery and was forbidden to man the grill, but he and Em were there to direct the willing volunteers.

It is fitting that St. Mary Parish and Interfaith Action honor Gerry and Em because they have been at the heart of our Thursday soup kitchen team at First Presbyterian Church. For this, they put their talents to work cooking for the homeless and hungry people of Evanston. The parish team serves 6-8 times per year, and it is always lovely food. The Hubbarths would not do it any other way.

Congratulations and know that our prayers are with you, Gerry and Em!

2011 Confirmation Class

Confirmation will be celebrated at Sheil Chapel, on February 18. Our candidates are

Barbara Acacia
Alec Auston
Matthew Auston
Mary Catherine Bauer
Bryan Brannon
Caroline Brentz
Eleanor Clark
Rob Colgate
Mary Loftus
Jeff Noel
Natasha Schmeling
John Michael Van Treack

Soup Kitchen Appeal

As you may know, we hosted the soup kitchen eight times in 2010, and the support the team received was tremendous. They always need volunteers, food, and money. This ministry is very dear to the hearts of our Vision Keepers. Make it one of your priorities.

Our new dates are:

January 20, 2011
March 31
May 12
July 14
August 11
September 8
October 27
December 8

Lent

Time for Renewal, Repentance, New Beginnings

What a beautiful time to connect the Mystery of God with the mystery of our lives and discover “what it all means” to our lived reality. This year the Faith Community of St. Mary will form Lenten Reflection Groups to encourage us along our Lenten journey.

Pope John Paul II had this to say about ecclesial basic communities: “*These are groups of Christians who ... come together for prayer, scripture reading, catechesis, and discussion.... These Communities are a sign of vitality within the Church, an instrument of formation and evangelization, and a solid starting point for a new society based on ‘a civilization of love’*” (*Redemptoris Missio*, December, 1990).

Our own Father Greg Sakowicz has this to say: “*This is an opportunity to slow down, to enrich our faith life and to nourish one another. Make the time in this Lenten journey because you will make a difference to the group, and the group may make a difference for you.*” And, as he has said on other occasions, we are called to “love this world back into life.”

Small Faith Communities, Small Christian Communities, Small Church Communities, Base Communities, Small Ecclesial Communities, Intentional Communities are ways to describe the same experience: the experience of people gathering together to form smaller communities that strengthen and nourish both the parish and the universal Church. The stronger we are, the more likely we are to make a difference in the world.

How can you participate?

Host a small group; it's easy!

Call a few friends or family members and pick a time and a place to gather. It may be wine and cheese in the living room, “coffee and ...” around the kitchen table, or snacks at a local café or your favorite restaurant. Maybe members would like to rotate hosting. The goal is to form groups of 8-12. If you have room in your circle of friends to invite a few more, consider opening your group to other parishioners. This is a great opportunity to reach out to people who feel estranged from the Church and people who are members of other denominations and faiths.

Don't worry about being the discussion leader if you are the host. You don't necessarily need to do both. When you register your group (by calling Karie Ferrell at the Parish Office before February 18), you will be asked who will be the group's host and who will be the group's leader. Both will be invited to the leaders' meeting on February 21.

Facilitate a small group; we'll train you!

February 21 at 7 p.m.

Gathering Space of the church

You will receive the reflection materials, learn tips for facilitating group conversation, and have the opportunity to ask questions.

Join a small group; it'll be fun!

Registration Weekend: February 26/27

Gathering Space of the church

Stop in before or after all the masses on this weekend to find a group with open spots and see who's hosting, where the groups meet, the times, etc., so you can pick a group that suits your needs.

Why should you participate?

Imagine how the Spirit could move in our parish if 20-30 groups of 8-12 people spent 6 weeks encountering the Word of God with a common commitment! Then ask yourself, “If not me, who? If not now, when?”

—Karie Ferrell

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