

Dear Parishioners,

My name is Fr. Peter Shaba. I am from Nigeria. I entered the Major Seminary in 2011 – SS Peter and Paul Major Seminary Ibadan, Oyo State Nigeria where I studied Philosophy and Theology. I was in The Republic of Benin for my Spiritual year and Togo for my pastoral year.

Ordination and place of mission: I was ordained in 2010 and sent on mission to the Central African Republic, a country bordered by Cameroun, Chad, Sudan (both North and South) and the two Congos. The name of the Mission is St Pierre, Mabondo. We have 18 other out stations, covering over 140 miles. I work among the Pygmies. These are people who are traditionally hunters and gatherers and they live in the forest. They depend on the forest resources for their livelihood. They see themselves as inferior and as people not worthy to mingle with the outside world.

Mission: Our mission among them is first and foremost to give them the identity they need, making them aware that they too are human beings who can as well live in an organized society. We do this through education, with the one classroom block we have in two villages (though these are elementary schools) and through the medical care we provide for them. We also help out with clothes, water, food and also paying the school fees of the brilliant children, those who are very successful in the elementary stage.

Aim and projects: Our aim is to give a proper education to these children and make them better than their parents, since they are the ones we can rely upon for proper formation, while the project we plan for is to build a three to four classroom blocks for those other children who are not so lucky to further their education after the elementary stage. Also, we hope to complete another dispensary which we just cleared the site in February of this year in one of our stations where we also have pygmies. More so, we are planning to build a recreation hall especially for showing of films, especially if we are able to get a projector.

Challenges: We have very bad roads, which are not good for our cars, which are always in need of repairs since we do not have bikes. Just as in our village and in the villages around, the Government impacts are not felt, there is no portable water, no dispensaries or hospitals, no schools and where these are present, they are dilapidated huts, just standing, no drugs or medicines, and as for the schools, the children are not taken care of. Girls are discouraged from going to school by their parents, since they are forced to marry early, thus there are early pregnancies. A lot of HIV and AIDS patients, (many of whom do not even know their status), due to lack of education and proper information. There is very little social distractions for the kids, football (soccer) only.

Major challenge: The major challenge we are facing now is insecurity especially after the coup d'état which ousted the former president Francois Bozize in March. Many parishes are now being attacked with goods worth thousands of dollars carted away by these rebels-mercenaries. On August 7 2013, just few days ago, the parish where am working was attacked. The guard was injured, a lot of things were stolen from the rectory, some of which includes: household utensils, laptop computers, handsets, cash, clothes, etc. It will take a great deal to get them replaced.

Evangelization: The pygmies have the idea of a divine being, but we bring Christ to them through our works, saying Masses in our 18 villages at least once every three months and when we are not there, there are some trained helpers who help in Sunday services.

You could support and consolidate our efforts through: prayers, technical know-how, donations, especially to upgrade and equip our school, donation for sports and social equipment and facilities, football (soccer ball), projectors, etc., donation towards replacing the mission properties stolen by the rebels recently and girl-child school sponsorship and support for teachers and catechists mainly through means of transport, i.e. bicycle and motorcycle.

Thank you for your presence, time and generosity. You may make donations via Saint Rita Parish. Please clearly indicate the purpose of your donation. May God who sees the good you do in secret, bless you abundantly, and replenish your energies. Thanks and God bless!

Rev. Fr. Peter Shaba, SMA

Celebration of the Priesthood

Please join us for the fifth annual dinner in *Celebration of the Priesthood* on Thursday, September 26th at 5:30 pm at the Seaport World Trade Center in Boston, MA. The dinner is an opportunity to honor the many beloved priests who serve or have served in our parishes, schools, and communities throughout the Archdiocese. It also raises needed revenue for the Clergy Funds, which provide for the health, welfare, and retirement benefits of all our active and senior priests in the Archdiocese. Parishioners are encouraged to purchase tables or give a gift in honor of the priests who serve in their community. For more information, please contact Arlene Dubrowski at events@rcab.org or (617) 779-3733.

Scouting News



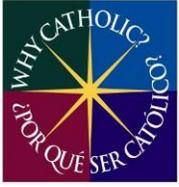
The Boy Scouts of America provides a program for young people that builds character, trains them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and develops personal fitness. St. Rita's Parish charts two very active units, Cub Scout Pack 7 that serves boys in elementary school and Boy Scout Troop 7 that serves boys in middle and high school.

If you are interested in learning more or joining Pack 7 or Troop 7 please stop by one of our weekly meetings in the St. Rita's Parish Hall or contact Patrick Drane at patjdrane@gmail.com or 508-320-9274.

The first meeting for Boy Scout Troop 7 is Wednesday, September 4, 2013 at 7:00 pm at Ste Marguerite d'Youville Parish Center. For more information please visit <http://www.troop7lowell.org>.

There will be an informational meeting on Friday, September 13, 2013 at 7:00 pm for Cub Scout Pack 7.

“Why Catholic?” Corner



When can I sign up? The weekend of September 14th and 15th someone will be speaking at all Masses to give more information. The following weekend, September 21st and 22nd will be Sign-Up Sunday.

In the meantime, should you want more information, please feel free to speak to any of the following persons who have been active in the Lenten Program:

Why Catholic Parish Team:

Crystal Drane	Sr. Pauline Leblanc
Frank McCarthy	Deacon Everett Penney
Joe & Sue Wisnewski	Claire Wuolle

Small Group Leaders:

Mary Dumont	Sherri Labrecque
Janet Langlais	Diane MacDonald
Michelle Marion	Jeanne Pinard
Nataliya Poto	

St. Joseph Hospital 20th Anniversary Reunion

St. Joseph's Hospital 20th Anniversary Reunion is scheduled for Friday, September 27, 2013, 6:30 to 11:30 pm at Lenzi's Mill House Restaurant, Dracut, MA.

This event, recognizing twenty years since the closing of St. Joe's, will celebrate the Sisters of Charity, employees, doctors, board members, volunteers, donors and friends of the Hospital with a night of remembrances and friendships. A special dedication will be made in honor of Sr. Yvette Thibodeau, Sr. Doris Brouillette and Sr. Lucille Bernard.

Tickets are \$40.00 and include hors oeuvres, buffet and dancing. Checks are made payable to SJH Reunion. All are welcome!

For more information contact Helen Blaschke at 978-454-7346 or b.blaschke@comcast or June Battle at 978-251-4766 or bernjune@verizon.net.

SJA Accepting Applications



Ste Jeanne d'Arc School located in Lowell, MA is now accepting applications for the 2014-2015 school year. We are a K1 – 8 Catholic independent school offering accelerated classes, K-8 French program, extensive athletic programs,

extra-curricular activities and an Extended Day Care Program. A 2010 National Blue Ribbon School, we invite you to see what we have to offer. To learn more, visit our website at www.sjdarc.org. To inquiry about enrollment or request an admissions package, please contact the Admissions Office at 978-453-4114.

Parish Support

Weekly Offertory needed to meet budget	\$5,000.00
Offertory Collection August 3/4	\$3,558.50
On-Line Giving	\$475.00
Collection Under Budget	(\$966.00)
Fiscal Year Needed to date	\$30,000.00
Fiscal Year Collected to date	\$28,836.50
Utilities Collection Needed for Budget	\$1,800.00
Utilities Collected Last Weekend	\$1,203.00
Utilities Collection Under Budget	(\$597.00)
Utilities Collection Needed to Date	\$3,600.00
Utilities Collection Collected to Date	\$2,673.00
Seating Capacity 450 X 3 masses	1,350
Mass Attendance last weekend	393

Special Collection

Next weekend we will be taking up a special collection to assist Fr. Peter in his missionary work in Africa. Fr. Peter, thank you for serving us this summer!

Summer Collection Reminder

This time of the year many are going away during the weekends or are making plans for the summer. We ask you to please remember that we need your financial support throughout the summer months. Thank you for mailing in your donations when you are unable to attend Mass here at St. Rita's. Your efforts make a considerable difference in helping us maintain our weekly budget. Thanks for your continued support.

Feast of Our Lady of Beauraing

Please join us in celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Beauraing on Thursday, August 22nd at 6:30 pm at Ste Marguerite d'Youville Parish. Rosary, Presentation and Benediction. Guest Speaker: Rev. Eugene J. Tremblay, O.M.I. from St. Joseph the Worker Shrine. Refreshments to follow with a brief explanation of the Icon of Our Lady of Beauraing. For more information, please call (978)649-1813.

Bean Supper

Saint Rita's Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society is organizing a Bean Supper, which will be held on Saturday, October 26th, after the 4:00 pm Mass in Saint Rita's Parish Hall. More information will appear in future publications of the parish bulletin.

The Week Ahead

Saturday, August 17th

- 8:00 Boy Scouts Planning Meeting – Parish Hall
- 8:30 Sacrament of Reconciliation - Chapel
- 8:30 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament – Chapel
- 11:45 Benediction – Chapel

Saturday, August 24th

- 8:30 Sacrament of Reconciliation - Chapel
- 8:30 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament – Chapel
- 11:45 Benediction – Chapel

Date/Time	Celebrant	Date/Time	Celebrant
August 17/18		August 24/25	
4:00PM (SR)	Fr. Peter	4:00PM (SR)	Fr. Chris
4:00PM (SM)	Fr. Marc	4:00PM (SM)	Fr. Peter
7:00AM (SR)	Fr. Peter	7:00AM (SR)	Fr. Peter
8:30AM (SM)	Fr. Chris	8:30AM (SM)	Fr. Cormier
10:00AM (SR)	Fr. Marc	10:00AM (SR)	Fr. Chris
11:30AM (SM)	Fr. Cormier	11:30AM (SM)	Fr. Marc

*Anticipated celebrant may change without prior notice

San Damiano House of Prayers



Please note that San Damiano House of Prayer will be closed from July 20th through September 9th.

The next retreat for Parents who have lost a child in death will be held on Saturday, October 26th. For more information on this event, please contact Diane Monaghan at 1-800-919-9332.

For more information on all of our offerings, please go to the following website: www.sandamiano-houseofprayer.org.

Parish Office Hours

Our Parish office hours are as follows:

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm**

**Wednesday
from 8:00 am to Noon**

Closed Weekends and Holidays.



Saturday, August 17th

8:00
4:00 Anne Welcome (10th Ann.) by the family

Sunday, August 18th – 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 Hanna Savlyak (Living/Birthday) by the family
10:00 Jeanne Martin (Dec.) by the family

Monday, August 19th

9:00 Sr. Denise Bernier (Dec.) by Sisters of Charity

Tuesday, August 20th

9:00 Alice Winters (Dec.) by the family

Wednesday, August 21st

NO MASS

Thursday, August 22nd

NO MASS

Friday, August 23rd

9:00

Saturday, August 24th

8:00 For the members of the parish
4:00 Sr. Lucie Plouffe (Dec.) by Sisters of Charity

Sunday, August 25th – 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 For the members of the parish
10:00 Irene Peloquin & Pierette Ruitz (Dec.) by Irene



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ANY TEXT OR GRAPHICS ENTERED ON THIS PAGE
WILL NOT APPEAR IN THE PRINTED BULLETIN**

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Comments:
