



# Monroe Vicariate

July, 2009

## Mission Statement

The Monroe Vicariate Pastoral Council seeks to enhance communication of our Catholic faith throughout our 14 parishes in Monroe County. We desire to work together as friends of Christ Jesus and as a family of parishes for the sake of the gospel. The VPC advises the Vicar.

**Fr. Frederik Kalaj** of St. Joseph, Erie, was born in Albania on February 19, 1957. He was the fourth of five children, with one sister and three brothers. Growing up in Communist Albania, Father often read the Bible and had a gradual conversion of the heart. With prayer and meditation, he thought about a priestly ministry.



In 1990, Father decided to escape the agonizing political system of atheism and poverty in Albania. At that period of time, there were two possible ways to escape from Albania: walking through mountains for three or four days or swimming across a lake for seven to eight hours. The first choice was very dangerous because the border was filled with soldiers instructed by the government to kill anyone who would try to escape and was fortified with electrical wire, dogs, traps, and snares. The second choice was hard because of the patrol boats and the possibility of drowning. Father and two friends swam over seven hours across the Lake of Shkodra, which contains the border of Albania and Montenegro (former Yugoslavia). He spent time in jail and a refugee camp near Belgrade, the capital of Serbia.

Father arrived in New York City (USA) in 1991. Two months later he came to Detroit and entered Sacred Heart Seminary in 1992. He was ordained a priest on the Vigil Feast of Pentecost 2001. Father served at St. Patrick Parish in White Lake and St. Lawrence Parish in Utica before becoming pastor at St. Joseph Parish in Erie.

Father remains close to his brothers, Leonard and Robert, and his nieces and nephews who live in Michigan. His brother, Paul, and sister Izabela live in Albania. A new book is "like a feast" for him. His favorite sport is skiing, but he also enjoys soccer, swimming, gymnastics, and painting landscapes with oil color. Father's artistic talents have also led him to design a banner for the altar at St. Joseph.

Father is a vegetarian who is known for his wonderful sermons, humility, understanding, compassion, and sensitivity. He is deeply patriotic and reminds everyone not to take the freedoms Americans enjoy for granted.

*This series of articles on the priests of the Monroe Vicariate is brought to you by the Monroe Vicariate Vocation Committee*

## Monroe Vicariate Schools

This past school year the principals of the Monroe Vicariate implemented the Viability Criteria for Catholic Schools that was approved by the Archdiocese to evaluate the schools. The criteria rankings are to 1) meets the criteria, 2) working toward these criteria, and 3) cannot meet the criteria at the present time. The following is a summary:



**Catholic Identity** ~ Does the school show evidence of instruction following the Archdiocese of Detroit Religion Curriculum, prayer, worship, service, and has an enrollment of more than 80% Catholic. Ranking: 100% meet this.

**Education Program** ~ IOWA scores are over 50<sup>th</sup> percentile level, the school is accredited, has an approved annual improvement plan, and has instruction in non-core areas (art, music, physical education, technology, foreign language).

Ranking: 92% meet this and 8% are working toward it.

**Faculty and Staff** ~ All teachers are state certified and highly qualified, Catechists are certified or working toward it, salaries are at least 85% of the recommended Archdiocesan Scale, and staff development is participated in. Ranking: 89% meet, 8% are working toward it, and 3% cannot meet at this time.

**Enrollment** ~ A strategic plan includes marketing, recruitment, retention, and public relations, and enrollment is sufficient. Ranking: 44% meet this, 39% are working toward it, 17% cannot meet at this time.

**Leadership** ~ Principals have appropriate degrees and certification, have an active relationship in the Vicariate, Archdiocese and other educational agencies, the school has an active School Advisory committee, and the principal's salary is at least 85% of the Archdiocesan scale. Ranking: 83% meet and 17% are working toward it.

**Resources and Finances** ~ 90% of the tuition is collected and tuition assistance is available for families demonstrating financial need. Ranking: 100% meet this.

**Parish/School/Plant Relations** ~ The parish subsidy does not exceed 40%, and the school facilities have been maintained and support the educational program. Ranking: 89% meet, 11% cannot meet

**Diocesan/Vicariate/School Relations** ~ Parish is current with all Michigan Catholic Conferences payments for health care and retirement, and the parish is fulfilling payment plans agreed upon regarding any school debt. Ranking: 78% meet and 22% are working toward it

**MONROE VICARIATE****Father Stephen Rooney • Vicar****www.monroevicariate.com**

E-mail: monvicwebmaster@CatholicWeb.com

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel  
8330 Lewis Ave.,  
Temperance 48182-9285  
734-847-2805

St. Anne  
2420 N. Dixie Hwy.,  
Monroe 48162-5290  
734-289-2910

St. Anthony  
4605 St. Anthony Rd. (M-151),  
Temperance 48182-9784  
734-854-1143

St. Charles Borromeo  
8109 Swan Creek Rd.,  
Newport 48166-9138  
734-586-2531

St. Irene  
576 Main, Dundee 48131-1299  
734-529-2160

St. John the Baptist  
511 S. Monroe,  
Monroe 48161-2293  
734-241-8910

St. Joseph  
2214 Manhattan,  
Erie 48133-0247  
734-848-6125

St. Joseph  
8295 Van Aiken, Ida 48140-0406  
734-269-3895

St. Joseph  
9207 Joseph St.,  
P.O. Box 125, Maybee 48159-0125  
734-587-8835

St. Joseph  
924 E. Second St.,  
Monroe 48161-1950  
734-241-9590

St. Mary  
127 N. Monroe St.,  
Monroe 48162-2686  
734-241-1644

St. Mary  
32477 Church St.  
Rockwood 48173-0249  
734-379-9248

St. Michael  
502 W. Front,  
Monroe 48161-2498  
734-241-8645

St. Patrick  
2996 Labo Rd.,  
Carleton 48117-9038  
734-654-2500

I.H.M. Motherhouse  
610 W. Elm, Monroe 48162  
734-241-3660

**WESTERN NEW YORK PILGRIMAGE** planned for October 12-15. Includes visits to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Lewiston, Our Lady of Victory Basilica and Shrine, Our Lady, Help of Christians Shrine, St. Joseph Cathedral in Buffalo, Sacred Heart Shrine and the Holy Infant Jesus Shrine. Shrines are located in the Buffalo and Niagara Falls Area. Includes daily Mass, time for personal prayer and reflection, a Maid of the Mist cruise and a dinner cruise. Led by Sr. Dorothy Jayne Krupp, OSF, Pastoral Associate at St. Michael the Archangel Parish. 4-day pilgrimage includes deluxe motor-coach transportation with Lakefront Lines, 3 nights lodging, luggage handling, 3 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners, 1 dinner cruise, driver gratuity, all applicable taxes, donations and gratuities. The cost is: Single/-\$654 Double/\$529 Triple/\$489 Quad/\$469 Prices are based on a minimum of 30 paying passengers; if numbers fall below, the price is subject to an increase. \$100 deposit is due by April 30; 2nd payment of \$200 is due by June 30; and final payment is due by August 21. All payments are fully refundable if the pilgrimage is cancelled by August 21. Make reservation and payments to Verla Cole at Lakefront Lines in Toledo, Ohio, 1-800-752-7574, #114. Passenger pick up will be from St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Monroe or pick-up points in Toledo can be arranged. For further information or a flyer, please call Sr. Dorothy at 1-734-241-8645, #14.

**5th Annual Family Fun Day** will be held at St. Joseph, Erie on Sat. July 18. Fr. Fred Kalaj, pastor, will celebrate Holy Mass at 11 a.m., followed by lunch at noon. Kids of all ages can play a variety of games, including the MoonWalk, from 1-3 p.m. New this year will be "Little Life Flight" from Toledo. Please bring a dish and dessert to pass. Hot dogs, condiments and ice cream will be provided. In case of rain, the events will be held inside. Sponsored by the Vicariate Family Life and Youth Committee.

**St. Mary's Rosary Makers Trash, Treasure, and Bake Sale** held at St. Mary's Monroe School Gym 151 N. Monroe St., Fri. July 10, 9 am to 4 pm Sat. July 11, 9 am to 4 pm

**St. Joseph Maybee 50th anniversary of Madonna Hall.** Come share in our 50 years of fellowship. Friday, July 10th - Dinner at 6:30 pm followed by a dance. Please feel free to wear your poodle skirts and saddle shoes. We are also looking for photos or video from any families who may have attended St. Joseph School in Maybee. Details can be found on our website at [www.stjosephmaybee.org](http://www.stjosephmaybee.org) or by calling 734/587-8835.

**St. Michael Monroe's Feast Day Celebrations!** 502 West Front Street, Monroe, MI ~ 734-241-8645 **Raffle Tickets – Great Cash Prizes!!!** Tickets can be purchased at the rectory.

**Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament****Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> through Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>**9 am-7pm **Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>** Adoration will begin at 9am and conclude with prayer and Benediction at 2 pm**Family Spaghetti Dinner and 50/50 Drawing ~ Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>**

6 pm-8 pm Tickets are: Adults/ \$6, Seniors &amp; children ages 4 – 13/\$4, 3 and under/ Free Tickets can be purchased at the rectory or at the door. Dinner includes: spaghetti and meat sauce, salad, roll, dessert and drink. Pop will be available for purchase.

**Donuts and Coffee after the 8:30 and 10:30 Masses Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>**

Raffle Drawings will take place at Noon.

**August Vicariate Deadline: Monday, July 20, 2009**Submit articles to: **St. Michael the Archangel**, 502 W. Front St., Monroe, MI 48161E-mail a Word or Text Document: [mvicariate@yahoo.com](mailto:mvicariate@yahoo.com)

**Summer Happenings at Capuchin Retreat Weekend Preached Retreats...Begin again in September.**

The THEME for 2009-2010 is **Prayer**

Be sure to book the men and women of your parish for a Weekend (Fri pm to Sun lunch) or a 24 Hour Retreat (Lunch Sat. – Brunch Sun.)

**Private Retreats and Days of Recollection**

Individual Private and Directed Retreats and Group days of Recollection can be booked at your convenience throughout the year. Just give us a call.

**COMPASS YAM** [www.compassyam.org](http://www.compassyam.org) College Students and Young Adults 18-35 / single or married, with or without children **Julieta Oliva** Campus Ministry Coordinator ~julietaliva@hotmail.com; [www.compassyam.org](http://www.compassyam.org)  
**New Students** if you are a new student of Monroe County Community College we invite you to join the Newman Club, the Catholic Student Association. Contact us through facebook "MCCC Newman Club", e-mail [julietaliva@hotmail.com](mailto:julietaliva@hotmail.com) or phone number 313 319 7420, visit the website [www.compassyam.org](http://www.compassyam.org)

**Stem Cells for Dummies:** What We Know, What We Don't Know and What Stem Cells Have to Do With Cancer - presented by Christine Zaums, Licentiate in Bioethics from the Pontifical University Regina Apostolorum in Rome, Italy. 7 pm on July 9 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Temperance. Come and get informed, learn the lingo and pass it on without a bit of trouble.

**Catechesis of the Good Shepherd** A Level I (preschool) National Certificate course for adults who wish to be trained in this Montessori style of Religious Education will begin this September and conclude in June of 2010. Sessions on one Saturday a month will be held at St. Mary's School Atrium in Monroe, MI. Dates are: Sept. 12, Oct. 3, Nov. 7, Dec. 5 of 2009 and Jan. 9, Feb. 6, March 6, April 10, May 1, and June 5 of 2010. The scheduled hours are from 9:00 – 5:00 with lunch included. Course Presenter is Sr. Nancy Ayotte IHM. Tuition is \$400 that includes a National Certificate ([cgsusa.org](http://cgsusa.org)), supplies for the course and lunch. For more information and registration, contact: [nayotte@ihmsisters.org](mailto:nayotte@ihmsisters.org) or (734) 240-8234.

**FOR WIDOWED MEN & WOMEN MASS, SUPPORT & REFRESHMENTS** Widowed are invited to celebrate Mass together and gather afterward for refreshments on Sunday, July 19th at St. Thomas Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley Road (just south of Cherry Hill), Canton, MI. Please check in by 2:15 pm. Mass begins promptly at 2:30. Sponsored by *WIDOWED FRIENDS*, a peer group in the AOD where you can meet new friends in a safe, friendly setting. Call Pat 734-459-5508 or Diane 734-981-0442.

**Definition of Evangelization** ~ Go and Make Disciples is the US Conference of Catholic Bishop's National Plan and Strategy to bring the New Evangelization alive in the Church of the United States. Every Catholic, by virtue of their baptism, is called to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel Message, drawing all to Christ. Catholic evangelization differs from Protestant evangelism in that evangelization is more than introducing non-believers to the Gospel message, but rather, is an invitation to the fullness of the faith in the Church established by Christ. Knowing Christ Jesus and belonging to his Church are not the same as believing anything else and belonging to any other community. Pope John Paul II has pointed out, "While acknowledging that God loves all people and grants them the possibility of being saved (cf. 1 Tm 2:4), the Church believes that God has established Christ as the one mediator and that she herself has been established as the universal sacrament of salvation." The unique claim of our message does not negate the sincerity and faith of others; likewise, the sincerity and faith of others do not take away from the clarity and truth of our message. As Pope John Paul II reminds us, "It is necessary to keep these two truths together, namely, the real possibility of salvation in Christ for all humankind and the necessity of the Church for salvation. Both these truths help us to understand the one mystery of salvation." (Go and Make Disciples, 32)

**FROM VICARIATE PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE:**

To all who helped with the Lenten collection of items for the homeless, we send a *very special thank you*. You were very generous, and it does not go unnoticed by our good God. Now we are requesting some of your time. The place where we keep donated furniture and furnishings is the former Development Office next to St. Mary Catholic Central. If anyone could help, on a regular basis, perhaps several hours. one day a week, it would be a great gift. We also need some persons with a pickup truck who could pick up donated furniture, or take furniture to a newly settled person, several hours, one day a week. A team of such persons would make it easier for everyone. Please call Lorie Bronson if you could do either of these jobs. 734-241-6097

**BABY CONTEST!** *Monroe County Right to Life* still has openings for its annual Baby Contest at the Monroe County Fair! Babies will compete for prizes from local sponsors by the votes made by Fair visitors. Category still open: King/Queen title, ages 37 months to 4 years. Entries are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. For more information, please visit our website at, [www.monroertl.org](http://www.monroertl.org) or call Melissa Larnar, Fair Coordinator at (734) 244.6883 or e-mail, [mcrtlfair@yahoo.com](mailto:mcrtlfair@yahoo.com). All proceeds support Monroe County Right to Life's mission of educating and promoting pro-life issues within Monroe County.

**St. Michael the Archangel Parish Blood Drive** ~ Tuesday, July 14 from 12:30 until 6:30pm. St. Michael's is located at 502 W. Front St., Monroe, MI. Blood supplies always run low during the summer months and all blood types are needed. Please consider donating blood and help save lives. If you have any questions, please call Michele Bieszki at 734-243-5880.