

PARISH PROFILE

St. Anne on Queen Anne prepares for second century

Vibrant community propelled by longtime families and newcomers

BY TERRY MCGUIRE

Not one to rest on its laurels after 100 years of serving the spiritual and physical needs of its Queen Anne community, St. Anne Parish is getting down to business as it prepares for its second century. Over the spring and summer, "Candid Conversations" sessions brought parishioners together to address issues of parish leadership and finances, "so we'll be better prepared to look at our future," said Pastoral Coordinator Ron Ryan.

The parish's transition from a full-time pastor to the current full-time lay pastoral coordinator position was among the topics. "It's not a model of parish leadership that most parishes are used to," Ryan noted.

Building on those sessions, parish leaders last month began a series of "conversation cafes," asking parishioners to share their thoughts and dreams for the future. Among other questions, they're being asked to describe what they value most about the parish, and what it would take for them to become more involved. Fifty parish leaders are conducting the "cafes," each inviting ten parishioners to meet in their homes or at a local eatery. "We hope to have the first drafts of our mission statement by the end of the year," Ryan said.

'Strong sense of community'

Ryan, in his third year as pastoral coordinator of the parish of approximately 590 households, says St. Anne's long history is among its strengths. "We have some families that go back for generations and provide a very strong sense of community and identity," he said. "And at the same time, because of the changing demographics on Queen Anne Hill, we have a lot of new families moving in who bring their life and their vitality, too."

Ryan said the community's sense of service and outreach has been integral to its history. For example, Martha's Workers, founded in 1986, makes sandwiches, collects groceries and sponsors a monthly spaghetti dinner for users of the Family and Adult Service Center downtown. The parish boasts an active St. Vincent de Paul Society conference, and St. Anne Moms serves mothers and children in need in the greater community. The parish also hosts a dinner for homeless people twice a year.

Parish members Dr. Steve Albright, a Seattle dentist, and his wife, Paula Cippolla, recently took four fellow parishioners with them to Guatemala to provide dental and medical services to people in need, part of a humanitarian effort the couple has been involved in for years.

Closer to home, longtime parishioner Judy Killion recalls how the St. Anne community came together when a parish boy took a fatal fall from a rope swing some years back.

"When he was still in a coma we had a prayer vigil that was entirely instituted and instigated and run by parishioners," she said. "That's when I realized that it

was really the community that was most important. Pastors come and go, but your neighbors are usually here with you in times of joy and sorrow."

Betty Ferguson, who with her late husband, Murray, sent all seven of their children through St. Anne School, has been an active member of the parish for 48 years. She marvels at how well the young and old parishioners combine their talents in serving the parish community. "The young people are welcoming and inclusive as far as welcoming the older people (and vice versa)," she said, "and I think that's a great strength."

St. Anne's also is known for inspiring vocations to religious life. Close to a dozen parish sons have gone on to the priesthood, while a number of parish daughters have become women religious.

Msgr. Quain was colorful leader

According to a parish history, the parish named in honor of the mother of Mary was established by Bishop Edward O'Dea on Dec. 20, 1908, two years after 40 families petitioned him for a parish.

Founding parishioner Mrs. A. Butterfield, writing of the parish's early times in a 1941 reflection, recalled: "There were so few men in church in those days that it was known as the 'Women's Church.'" Those first parishioners were predominantly of German ancestry, she said.

Still, a succession of Irish pastors was to guide the parish for much of the next century, starting with Redemptorist Father Patrick Byrne, an Ireland-born attorney who at age 45 discerned his calling to the priesthood. He is believed to be the parish's first priest, though it is not clear if he was assigned as pastor, according to the Archdiocese of Seattle Archives.

Ireland-born Father Thomas Quain — later Msgr. Quain — was the parish's longest-serving pastor. He became the stuff of legend during his 37-year pastorate, which ran from 1922 to his death on Dec. 22, 1959. Stories of him are retold to this day.



Msgr. Thomas Quain

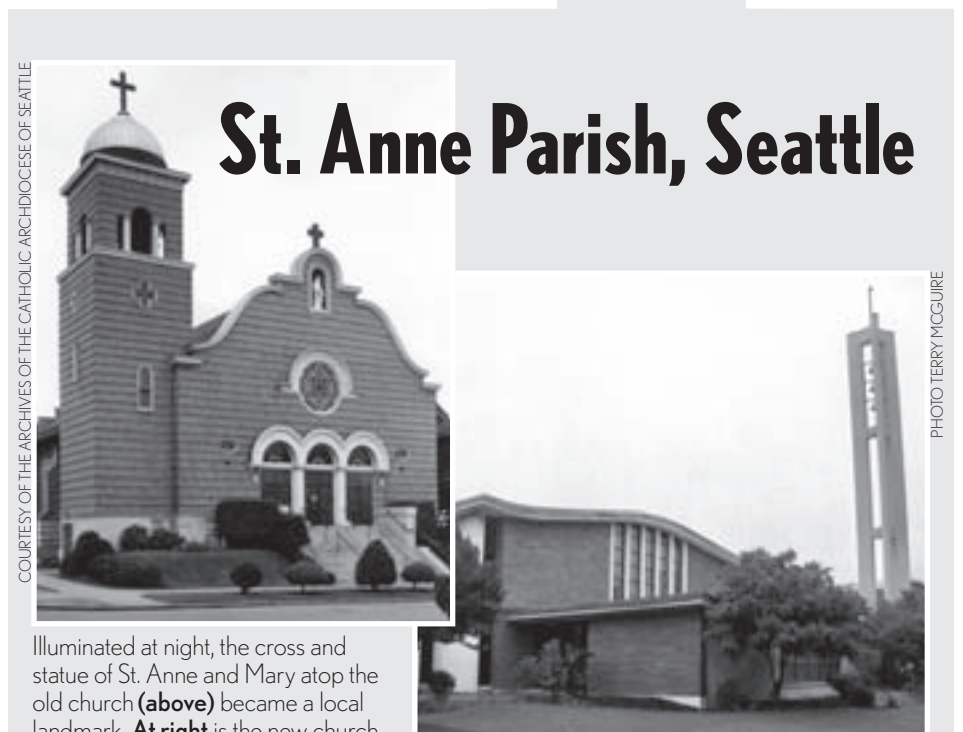
One longtime parishioner remembers being in the first grade on that Sunday during the Depression when Father Quain took up the collection basket himself during Mass. He went out among the congregation to implore parishioners to help their money-strapped parish. "He was almost angry as he walked up and down the aisles," the parishioner recalled last week.

Father Quain was equally forthright in other areas of parish life. One year his Mother's Day homily consisted of six words: "Boys, be good to your mothers."

He was known to emerge from Saturday confessions to announce: "We're running behind. Mortal sins only, please."

But the Depression also revealed his compassionate side. Parishioners lacking enough groceries or coal for the winter would soon receive a delivery to their homes from their pastor.

The parish's annual novenas leading up to St. Anne's feast day on July 26 were



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PHOTO: TERRY MCGUIRE

Illuminated at night, the cross and statue of St. Anne and Mary atop the old church (above) became a local landmark. At right is the new church, which reopened last month following summertime renovations that included skylights, a new chapel, baptismal font and nursery.

Founded: 1908

Households: 590

Parochial Vicar: Father John Bowman

Street Address: 1411 First Ave. W., Seattle, WA 98119-9919

Phone: 206-282-0223

Web site: www.stannesattle.org

Centennial Celebrations:

Thursday, Oct. 9: Past and present parishioners, priests, staff and friends are invited to a parish reunion, with Mass at 6 p.m. followed by a reception and an all-class reunion celebrating St. Anne School's 85th anniversary.

Sunday, Dec. 14: Archbishop Alex J. Brunett will rededicate the recently renovated church at the 10 a.m. Mass.

extremely popular during the 1920s and '30, drawing up to 3,000 people.

Father Quain was a year into his pastorate when the parish school opened in 1923 with 150 students under the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. He regularly handed out the report cards, gave stern looks to the underachievers, and enjoyed handing out chocolate bars to the first and second graders. Tuition was free until the 1980s.

At the time of his death, Msgr. Quain was planning for the new church, the old 400-seat church becoming so crowded that the basement was remodeled into a chapel in 1946 so Masses could be celebrated simultaneously. Father Bernard Cremer, Msgr. Quain's successor, picked up the baton for the new 800-seat church, enlisting 260 parishioners for the St. Anne Memorial Campaign. The "campaigners," as they were known, visited the homes of their fellow parishioners asking for monthly pledges for

PASTORS:

(unless otherwise noted)

Father Patrick Byrne, C.Ss.R., 1908

Father Joseph Chapoton, C.Ss.R., 1909

Father Matthew Woods, 1910

(first resident pastor)

Father James Dunne, 1913

Father Thomas Quain, 1922

Father Bernard Cremer, 1960

Father Richard Stohr, 1973

Father John Horan, 1976

Father Ed Norris, 1983

Father Jim Mallahan, 1992

(priest administrator)

Father Richard Basso, 1992

(priest administrator)

Father Kevin Moran, 1994

Father Bob Camuso, 1996

Father Paul Pluth, 2005

(parochial vicar)

Father John Bowman, 2008

(parochial vicar)

25 months. The church was dedicated by Archbishop Thomas A. Connolly in 1963. Father Cremer wanted a building with no entrance steps, making the design a pioneer in accessibility for people with disabilities.

In 1994 St. Anne's was clustered with neighboring St. Margaret of Scotland Parish under one pastor.

In January 2000 tragedy shook the parish when ten St. Anne parishioners were among the 88 killed in the crash of Alaska Airlines Flight 261 off the coast of California.

In 2001 the parish began a building renovation and construction project that included a seismic retrofit and additions to the school, a new parish hall and a reconfiguration of the church into the round.



Father John Bowman