Holy Cross Parish: A community of ‘graciousness and generosity’

BY ARMANDO MACHADO

Holy Cross Parish is grateful for “all the graces and blessings” it has received through all the people who have built the parish family since the founding in 1915.

This has been done by sharing their “God-given gifts and talents with and for each other,” said Sue Davis, parish pastoral assistant for religious education.

“The parish has received the Annual Catholic Appeal Award for parishioner participation seven times in the past 10 years. Parishioners contribute generously through stewardship and other appeals. Our annual Name Day celebration on Sept. 14, the Feast of the Holy Cross, includes morning Mass and evening Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by a delicious potluck meal and a rousing sing-a-long.”

Holy Cross Parish has 371 registered households. The pastor is Jesuit Father Robert Rekofke. The parish was established on Jan. 2, 1915. A school that was built in 1916 and staffed by the Dominican Sisters, closed in 1976.

The upper floor of the school was used as a church until 1921 when a church building was completed. Many years later, on Dec. 1, 1957, the present church building was dedicated. And a new parish hall was dedicated on July 1, 2001.

Davis said that Lenten programs include the Stations of the Cross on Friday nights — as well as an evening Mass followed by a soup supper and a short inspirational video on Wednesday nights. She said that on Pentecost Sunday “we all wear red, gather for a single Sunday Eucharist liturgy at 10:30 a.m. and afterwards enjoy each other’s company at the parish Pentecost Brunch.”

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration began at Holy Cross Parish in 1982. Members of the parish and friends from the surrounding area participate in round-the-clock visits with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Davis said this is “an extension of the worship in our Eucharistic liturgies. Through the infinite mercy of God, the prayer that goes forth from our church touches many people beyond the boundaries of our parish.”

Staffers say that volunteers have organized spring and fall rummage sales for many years. The volunteers gather, sort and store rummage all year round. After every rummage sale, they begin collecting again for the next sale. Proceeds are distributed to the parish and various outreach organizations.

Staffers commend all volunteers — including those with the Holy Cross Altar Society. In that group, volunteers provide receptions for families celebrating the lives of their loved ones at Holy Cross Church funerals. Members of the Altar Society also care for the altar, operate a prayer line and do other outreach work. Other parish programs include the dedicated work of members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and volunteers who do outreach work at nursing homes.

March 25-26 Holy Cross participated in the new Progress P3 subscription program. Five dollars from each subscription they sold went to their youth group. For more information on this program contact Marketing Associate Keri Hake at 206-382-2075 or kerih@seattlearch.org