

CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION BROOKLYN DIOCESE NEWSLETTER Volume I—Issue II - SPRING 2016



Welcome

Easter Blessings, welcome to the second issue of the CYO Newsletter. Currently the CYO is beginning our spring season. As the weather begins to warm up and the sun shines longer during the day our teams participating in outdoor sports are practicing for the upcoming season. The baseball, softball and soccer fields throughout the diocese will be filled with players participating in games and events sponsored by the CYO. We thank all the coaches and parents dedicating their time and service providing the youth with such wonderful opportunities to participate in spiritual and healthy competitive sports displaying true forms of sportsmanship.

Each Spring the Catholic Youth Organization of the Diocese of Brooklyn takes the time to recognize individuals that have made significant contributions to the CYO as a player, coach, coordinator, clergy, official, parish representative, athletic director, or other member of the community whose accomplishments and actions have brought to life the Mission, Philosophy and Values of the Diocese of Brooklyn CYO.

The CYO proudly announces the following individuals will be inducted into the CYO HALL OF FAME on Friday May 20th, 2016 at the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CENTER in Douglaston:

Lenny Bishop	Mike Cawley	Harry Connor Jr	Ray Fortune
Rich Frohnhoefer	Msgr. Jaime Gigantiello	Donald Grady	Kenny Marchisella
Carol O'Connell	Morris Pasqual		

The evening will begin with Mass at 6:00pm celebrated by Bishop Paul Sanchez. Cocktail hour will be at 7:00pm followed by the Induction Ceremony and Dinner. For ticket information and journal ad opportunities please call the CYO office at 718-281-9548 or visit the Hall of Fame page on the CYO website (<u>www.cyodob.org</u>)

God Bless, Robert Caldera Executive Director, CYO

CYO Hosts First-Ever Cheerleading Showcase By Jim Mancari—The Tablet

The Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) of the Diocese of Brooklyn offers a wide variety of sports programs that help keep the youth of the diocese involved in their parishes.

And now, add one more activity to that growing list.

The CYO has begun developing a diocesan-wide cheerleading program. Several parishes have had their own cheer teams, and the focus is now to form an all-encompassing program.

To begin that process, CYO hosted its first-ever Diocese of Brooklyn Cheerleading Showcase Feb. 27 at Msgr. McClancy H.S., East Elmhurst. Five of the diocese's 12 cheerleading squads were on hand to showcase their talents and ramp up the energy and spirit for the budding program.

"CYO parishes had cheerleading, but it was never a diocesansponsored event," said CYO Director Rob Caldera. "I thought it would be really nice to start a cheerleading showcase event. They're always cheering for the ballplayers; let's cheer for them tonight."

The event included the Wildcats from Sacred Heart, Glendale; the Gators from St. Gregory the Great, Bellerose; the Eagles from American Martyrs, Bayside; the Blue Thunderettes from Immaculate Conception, Astoria; and the Marlins from St. Stanislaus, Maspeth.

Each team performed an opening cheer, followed by a floor dance routine and concluded with a closing series of cheers. There were also routines that included all five teams and even included young girls from parishes that do not yet have a team. "We do hope this will spark the interest for other parishes to start a cheer program at their school or church," Caldera said.

The Values of Cheerleading

Just like all the CYO sports, cheerleading teaches the lifelong values of teamwork, sportsmanship and respecting one's opponent. Not only do the cheerleaders support their own team, but they also are sure to cheer on the other team as well. The sport has allowed these girls to stay involved in parish life and interact with other members of the diocesan youth community. Most teams meet once per week to work on their routines and learn new cheerleading skills.

"It's fun; we learn new cheers and dances," said second-grader Isabela Forte from St. Stan's.

"This is the best activity I've ever been in; it's really fun," said fourth-grader Suzanne Ramos from Sacred Heart, adding that her team began working on its showcase routine in September. "We get to hang out with our friends."

"There's lots of jumps and stunts that I really like do," said fifth-grader Jolia Bracero from Immaculate Conception. "I really have fun and like it very much."

This is the first year of a cheerleading program from American Martyrs. It's been a learning process, but ultimately the values of sport are surely being conveyed to the participants.

(cont. on p.2)



UPCOMING EVENTS

4/2/16: Spring Baseball & Softball Begins

4/9/16: Spring Soccer Begins

4/11/16: CYO Night at Barclays Center (Nets vs. Wizards)

4/15/16—5/14/16 Volley Ball Diocesan Playoffs

4/30/16: Diocesan Youth Day at St. John's University

5/7/16—St. John's University Track Meet with CYO Events

5/20/16: CYO Hall of Fame Mass & Dinner at ICC, Douglaston, NY

6/16/16: CYO Golf Outing at North Hills Country Club





CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION BROOKLYN DIOCESE

CYO Hoops Teams Suit Up on Pro Court By <u>lim Mancari</u>—The Tablet

Barclays Center has quickly become the Diocese of Brooklyn's hottest sports venue.

And for a few local youth basketball teams, the dream of playing on a professional court was recently fulfilled.

The Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) of Brooklyn and Queens was granted exclusive access to the arena's main court prior to a recent Brooklyn Nets game.

Sixth-grade teams from St. Bernard, Mill Basin, and Our Lady of Hope, Middle Village, and seventh-grade teams from St. Thomas Aquinas, Flatlands, and St. Adalbert, Elmhurst, hit the floor bursting with excitement.

"The Brooklyn Nets reached out to our diocese regarding a junior Nets program," said CYO Director Rob Caldera. "Being that we're in their backyard, we teamed up, and this is the first of many upcoming events between the CYO and the Brooklyn Nets organization.

"This was something that for each and every one of them, it's a dream to play on a professional court where the pros that they love and watch get to play every day," said Robert Evangelista, head coach of the St. Bernard team. "It's a once in a lifetime experience that they'll remember for the rest of their lives."

Though the atmosphere of diocesan parish gymnasiums can get competitive, playing on the court at Barclays Center took on a much different feel for these young athletes – especially the length of the court.

"It was a good experience, and it was cool to play on a professional court," said Robbie Evangelista, a sixth-grade St. Bernard guard.

This group of young athletes realized just how lucky they were, since these types of experiences were far from the norm back in the day.

"They were just ecstatic," said St. Thomas Aquinas head coach Warren Midgett. "They just don't know how to respond to this. When I was that age, these types of opportunities were few and far between.

"This generation of kids really needs this. They need this opportunity as a push, they need this opportunity as motivation and they need this opportunity to dream."

After the CYO teams wrapped up their own games on the court, they then enjoyed seeing the Brooklyn Nets in action. Teams received discounted tickets to the game and even their very own Joe Johnson bobblehead doll.

By watching the professionals compete, CYO players can learn the basic fundamentals of the game as they continuously try to improve their skills.

"I can learn how to play from Dwight Howard and Brook Lopez with how to drop-step in the post," said St. Thomas Aquinas center Dwayne Jason.

"I think what they can do is watch the game and they can see the consistency," said St. Adalbert head coach Kevin Arias. "It's just the way the game goes by, and that way they can see something that we can bring home and use toward our game."

Since Caldera took over in July 2013, CYO has been active in creating these types of opportunities for its participants, including games on college basketball courts and even Madison Square Garden.

"It's been a goal of mine since taking over the CYO a number of years ago to give them more opportunities than just playing regular season games," said Caldera, adding that community outreach with professional and college teams goes a long way with the young athletes.

So maybe someday these CYO stars will suit up regularly at Barclays Center or other arenas around the country.

But for now, the thrill of playing on a pro court will not be wearing off anytime soon.



CYO Hosts First-Ever Cheerleading Showcase By Jim Mancari—The Tablet (continued from p.1)

"It teaches them to work together as a group, to help each other and to learn different skills," said Binu Masihuddin, the team's coach. "It's a collaborative effort from everybody on the team between the coaches, the girls and the parents."

At St. Gregory's, the parish had cheerleading awhile back, and the program was revived last year. The team is a fixture at the parish's basketball games each weekend during the winter season.

Emphasizing Team Work

"They have to rely on each other and understand there is no 'l' in team," said Marina Murphy, one of the team's coaches. "They all have to work together to create something amazing."

As the program expands, the goal is for more parishes to become involved to make the showcase-type events even more inclusive. The long-term vision is to have diocesan cheer competitions.

"This is another opportunity for the young girls who maybe don't play softball or volleyball or basketball to be involved in CYO," Caldera said.

Teamwork makes the dream work, and the dream of these CYO teams to showcase their talents has come to fruition.



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SPORTS

DIVISION

PEE-WEE II

NOVICE I

NOVICE II

ROOKIE I

ROOKIE II

INTERMEDIATE I

INTERMEDIATE II

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PEE-WEE I

BANTAM I

BANTAM II

CADET

JUNIOR

TYRO



RUNNER-UP'S

ST. ROBERT

OL. ANGELUS

SFDS

SFDS

ST. KEVIN

SH CHTS

STAN OPK

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

THOMAS AQUINAS

.......

ST. MARGARET

ST

ST. HELEN

.....

.....

ST. CLARE

ST. ADALBERT

CYO BASKETBALL—DIOCESAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The CYO Girls Diocesan Basketball championships took place from January 30th through February 21st with the finals taking place at St. John's Prep. High School in Astoria. Congratulations to all the teams that participated in the 2016 Girls Basketball Diocesan Championships. A special congratulations to the tournament champions and runner-up's:

GIRLS				
DIVISION	CHAMPIONS	RUNNER-UP'S		
PEE-WEE I	O.L. HOPE	O.L.B.S		
PEE-WEE II	ST. SEBASTIAN	ST. MARY WINFIELD		
NOVICE I	SFDS	ST. STAN MASPETH		
NOVICE II	ST. ANDREW	OL. SNOWS		
BANTAM I	ST. NICHOLAS	ST. ADALBERT		
BANTAM II	O.L. SNOWS	ST. ADALBERT		
ROOKIE I	SFDS	ST. KEVIN		
ROOKIE II	ST. ADALBERT	O.L.B.S.		
INTERMEDIATE I	OL. LOURDES	ST. ADALBERT		
INTERMEDIATE II	QUEEN OF PEACE	SACRED HEART GLENDALE		





CYO SWIMMING—DIOCESAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

B-Division

1st Place -- Holy Name/IHM/SAVIIOUR/TERESA/IGNATIUS/FRANCIS ASSISI/BLAISE) 294 Points 2nd Place -- Ansola (Anselm/OLA/Guadelupe) 276 Points 3rd Place -- VICAM (CAMILLUS-VIRGILIUS/ROSE/GRACE HB/HELEN/NATIVITY/OLPH SOP/GOH) 262 Points 4th Place -- St. Pat/ St. Ephrem 223 Points 5th Place -- Sacred Heart/KEVIN/MEL 217 Points **C-Division**

1st Place -- St. Gregory 332 Points 2nd Place -- FLUKES (LUKE/HOLY FAMILY/ANDREW/MNSA) 302 Points 3rd Place -- LIAM - (LOURDES/INCARNATION/AM MART/CLARE, SSJA, SH CHTS/SNOWS) 293 Points 4th Place -- SAINTS (RESURRECTION/MARK/GRACE) 280.5 Points 5th Place -- DEVINE LADIES (OLBS/ANASTASIA/ROBERT) 256 Points 6th Place -- BLESSED TRINITY - 186 Points



Photo by Carina Salvi

The St. Sebastian Girl's Swim Team celebrates their CYO Victory.

The CYO Boys Swimming championships took place on Saturday, January 9th at Eisenhower Park. Congratulations to all the swimmers and parishes that took part in the **BOYS CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS**

The CYO Boys Diocesan Basketball championships took place from February

13th through March 13th with the finals taking place at Msgr. McClancy Me-

morial High School in East Elmhurst. Congratulations to all the teams that

participated in the 2016 Boys Basketball Diocesan Championships. A special

BOYS

CHAMPTONS

ST. LUKE

ST. CLARE

ST. HELEN

GATE OF HEAVEN

ST. PAUL

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

MNSA

GATE OF HEAVEN

ST. PATRICK

ST. EPHREM

OL. ANGELUS

congratulations to the tournament champions and runner-up's:

OL. LOURDES

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ST. PAUL

A Division:

event.

1st Place St. Sebastian 384 Points
2nd Place OLAN (O.L.P.H./St. Andrew) 333 Points
3rd Place Good Shepherd 301 Points
4th Place St. Francis de Sales 255 Points
5th Place Tri-M; Our Lady of Mercy 235 Points
6th Place AOK; (St. Kevin/St. Anastasia/O.L.B.S./Sacred Heart) 226 Points
B Division:
1st Place St. Ephrem/St. Patrick 331.5 Points

2nd Place -- ANSOLA (St. Anselm/Our Lady of Angels) 312 Points 3rd Place -- STORM (Blessed Trinity/Resurrection) 297.5 Points 4th Place -- LIAM (Our Lady of Lourdes/Incarnation/American Martyrs/Holy Family/Our Lady of Snows) 285 Points 5th Place -- St. Virgilius/St. Camillus 261 Points

6th Place -- St. Gregory the Great 241 Points

The CYO Girls Swimming championships took place on Saturday, March 19th at Eisenhower park. Congratulations to all the swimmers and parishes that took part in the event.

GIRLS CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

A-Division

1st Place -- St. Sebastian (Joseph/Corpus/Joan/Winfield.Stan-M) 314 Points 2nd Place -- Tri-M (Mercy/OLQM/SH GLENDALE/MARGARET/HOLY CHILD) 263 Points 3rd Place -- SFDS 253 Points 4th Place -- OLAN (OLPH/ANDREW) - 227 Points 5th Place -- Good Shepherd (THOMAS AQUINAS/BERNARD/COLUMBA/VINCENT FER-

RER/MARY QUEEN OF HEAVEN) 215 Points



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SCHOOL OF EVANGELIZATION

Early in March we had our 4th Junior High School rally led by Paul Morisi which gathered young people from Catholic Schools and Academies from Brooklyn and Queens, 600 total were in attendance. Warm up activities were organized by David James, Youth Minister in the Catholic Youth Ministry Initative and the Keynote presentation was from Gene Montrasello of the Apex Ministry. Mass was celebrated by Fr. Jason Espinal, Regional Vocation Directior and Parochial Vicar from O.L. of Angels in Brooklyn.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

School of Evangelization

April 4th Theology On Tap: Join Fr. Chris Heanue for his Theology on Tap at Mojave NYC 22-36 31st St, Astoria, New York 11105. Doors open at 7pm. Topic: Confession: Where Mercy Abounds. https://www.facebook.com/groups/DOBTOT/

April 8th LIFT and BEER GARDEN: Join the Young Adult Community of St. Joan of Arc for an evening of prayer, praise and worship, and fellowship. Topic for the evening is "Catholic in the World, but Not of the World." Doors open at 7pm. St. Joan of Arc 82-00 35th Ave Jackson Heights, NY 11372. Music Provided by Lift Ministry. For more events and info: [http://www.LivingInFaithTogether.net]www.LivingInFaithTogether.net

April 9th Young Adult Year of Mercy Service and Fellowship: Join Young adults from all of the Diocese for this Year of Mercy Event. Walk through the Holy Doors of O.L. of Mount Carmel 23-25 Newtown Ave, Astoria, New York 11102, into Adoration with an opportunity for the Sacrament for Reconciliation. Following the Holy Hour we will go to a nearby bar/restaurant for fellowship. Want more info? Contact Paul Morisi at [mailto:pmorisi@diobrook.org]pmorisi@diobrook.org

April 18th Theology On Tap: Join Msgr. Sean Ogle for his Theology on Tap at Mojave NYC 22-36 31st St, Astoria, New York 11105. Doors open at 7pm. Topic: April Fools and Easter Joys. https://www.facebook.com/groups/DOBTOT/

May 13th LIFT and BEER GARDEN: Join the Young Adult Community of St. Joan of Arc for an evening of prayer, praise and worship, and fellowship. Topic for the evening is "Filled." Doors open at 7pm. St. Joan of Arc 82-00 35th Ave Jackson Heights, NY 11372. Music provided by Scott and Donna Tran and LIFT Ministry. For more events and info: www.LivingInFaithTogether.net

