

# St. Margaret's & St. Mary Magdalene

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## St. Margaret's at Hugh Campbell



Congratulations are extended to the Senior Boys Basketball Team of the North Andros High School and especially to one of our own members, young Phildon Pickstock. Phildon has natural basketball talent, seeing that he spends most of his time on the Basketball Court in North Mastic Point. He can go very far with his basketball skills. Congratulations must be extended to the organizers of both the Marcian Peters and Hugh Campbell tournaments. They are excellent opportunities to give children from the Family Islands good exposure to playing at a high level. Even if you don't win, it doesn't matter, the experience is what counts.

It is expensive for us to get to Nassau to participate as things are very slow on the Family Islands. To assist us, we are grateful to Fr. Sebastian Campbell and the parish of All Saints on Calvary Hill... 'Where Burdens are lifted.' Fr. Campbell allowed the team to stay in facilities at All Saints, at minimal cost and they were just very happy to be in town. Youth work is expensive, but very rewarding. When a group of kids came down to the First Annual Drexel Gomez Basketball Tournament, we slept at the Holy Cross Activity Centre in the Conference Room. We were grateful, we didn't mind, we were just glad to be there. Congratulations Phildon and all of the athletes at our parish. Keep up the good work.

## Girls' Brigade Enrolment



After much delay, the girls of the 1<sup>st</sup> Andros Company of the Girl's Brigade have been enrolled and the officers commissioned. Commissioner Antionette Hall accompanied by Captain Faustina Symonette of the Company at St. Barnabas travelled to Andros on the weekend of Feb 7<sup>th</sup> 2010 for the installation service. Girls' Brigade is a very active part of our youth ministry here in the parish. In due course our Boys' Brigade, we hope, will be just as strong and our Sunday afternoon Sunday School/Confirmation Class and Study Hall will also continue to thrive. You can view photos of this event on our webpage.

## Retreats...

This year the clergy met in another refreshing retreat at the Paradise Island All Inclusive hotel. The retreat was conducted by the Rt. Revd. Howard Gregory, Suffragan Bishop of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. Bishop Howard specializes in Pastoral Care and Counseling and offered some very helpful insights on the topics of Clergy Wellness, Clergy Family Care, Clergy Stress and Passion for Ministry (just to name a few). Last year Bishop Alfred Reid made a statement that truly identifies what a retreat is supposed to be: an opportunity to **'retreat in order to advance.'** In retreating, one is able to step back, take a look at the situation at hand, formulate a strategy for coping with the situation, and then advancing with a fresh outlook of the situation.

All big business and multinationals take advantage of this concept normally bundling up the whole office and jetting them off to somewhere exotic, like the Bahamas, for conventions and group meetings. I remember a couple of years ago, while walking through Atlantis, the Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream Company was having a huge convention or group meeting there. No doubt, they would be analyzing sales trends, formulating new flavours (probably incorporating something about the Bahamas in one of them), taking stock of staff concerns and then formulating a new strategy for the short term future. The Sons of Thunder recently came off a wonderful retreat in Harbour Island. We needed it too! For the past three years I have been promoting my little parish as a retreat haven and to date not only have we had the Clergy Conference here, but Women's Cursillo and Holy Cross Choir chose North Andros for their retreat. The Sons of Thunder come down every Summer for a get-away, now the ACM Conference is coming at the end of March. I enjoy hosting and participating in retreats. Should you be interesting in holding a retreat in the tranquility of North Andros, let us know.

## Agro-Tourism

Andros is farming town and the people here have been farming for a very long time. There is a huge grapefruit farm that has shipped out grapefruits to the USA for years and now the Godet farms have started their onion business on a large scale. Unfortunately though, the small farmer has more challenges to wrestle with. The produce must be picked and shipped to the packing house for sorting and shipping, and in many instances, a lot of the produce is thrown away because it is either the wrong size, or it might have a blemish, or is the wrong colour or the victim of some negative factor. In cases like this the small farmer loses a lot of money and for most, setbacks like these cause people to give up farming all together.

This got me to thinking. Agro-tourism involves getting tourists to come and live on the farm, help out with the chores (it is very therapeutic) and then instead of all that produce going to waste at the packing house, the tourist can carry a nice box or two home with them. While in Cambridge, on a summer day, we carried Aaron, who was a baby at the time, to a strawberry farm where for 5 pounds Sterling you could pick as many strawberries you could find, weigh them, package them and then carry them home. It was great. Andros can capitalize on this aspect of tourism to its benefit, not only generating touristic input but also minimizing wastage at the Government Packing House. In Andros, we do Backyard Farming on a large scale. Four members of the parish have huge backyards where they grow all manner of vegetables. Rai Budhu, Clayton Mackey, Alphonso Smith and Clyde Bowleg are neighbours and their backyard farms are huge. If they were to open their farms to tourists, it might entice more persons to come to Andros, more interest in backyard farming and more money circulating in the local economy. It would also mean free labour for the farmers. A win-win situation.

## Busy Little Bus



Thanks must be extended to the Parish of the Most Holy Trinity for graciously parting with their old bus and donating it to our little parish. As the title suggests, that little bus has been busy, busy, busy. Every parish needs a bus. It is vital for the success of the ministries of the church. Whenever there is a joint service we use it to shuttle people. The distances in Andros are far, and instead of everyone burning gasoline, why not share the burden and hop on the bus? Saturdays are our busiest days, the girls are picked up in Nicholl's Town and shuttled to Mastic

Point for Girl's Brigade in the morning. A second trip is made to Mastic Point to pick up the crowd of boys for Boys Brigade after the girls have been dropped home. Sunday has the usual rounds of picking up parishioners for the morning services and then in the afternoon collecting children and teachers for afternoon Sunday School. Before going to Seminary and while at Holy Spirit I can remember driving late into the night with a bus full of young people dropping them off after a night at the movies or a games night in the Parish Hall. The memories, I hope, will stick with the children of St. Margaret's and St Mary Magdalene forever.

## More Words of Wisdom

Here's another nugget from Bob Briner's Book **'The Management Method of Jesus. TEACH, TEACH, TEACH'**

A public service announcement says, "Be a teacher, Be a hero." We might well say to corporate managers, "Be a teacher. Be a success." Most of the legendary corporate giants, from Henry Ford to Tom Watson to Ross Perot, have been persistent and motivational teachers. They may well have received their inspiration from Jesus Christ, the greatest of all teachers. Jesus was often called 'rabbi', which means teacher, and he taught constantly. His teaching brilliance is revealed in the New Testament books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, which are full of remarkable insights. His ability as a teacher is also demonstrated by the success of his pupils, his disciples, as they carried out his plans and programs. Great corporate leaders don't hide in executive suites, plotting strategy. They find ways to teach, to inculcate those around them with their business ideas and ideals. Be like Jesus. Be a teacher. Be a success.

## CONTACT US