

# VELIKA GOSPA NEWSLETTER

## WELCOME!

We sincerely welcome all of you who join us this Velika Gospa — those who return year after year, who take time off of work to attend our grand, solemn procession and Mass — as well as those who are in attendance for the first time.

We especially welcome our Auxiliary Bishop Alberto Rojas; Fr. Robert Jolić, our main celebrant, who comes to us from Croatia; our guest priests Fr. Edo Punda from Split; Fr. Tomislav Zecevic from Rome; our local priests; government representatives: Consul General Jelena Grcic Polic; the Consulate staff; and the General Secretary of the Croatian Government, Ms. Zorica Matković.



## DOBRO DOŠLI!

Dobro došli svi! Dobrodošli Vi koji ste nazočni svake godine, kako bi sudjelovali u našoj svečanoj procesiji i svetoj Misi, kao i Vi koji ste s nama prvi put.

Izražavamo srdačnu dobrodošlicu pomoćnom biskupu Albertu Rojas, našem fra Robertu Joliću, koji nam dolazi iz Hrvatske i koji predvodi današnju misu; gostima svećenicima dr. don Edi Punda iz Splita, don Tomislavu Zečević iz Rima; našim lokalnim svećenicima; generalnoj konzulici dr. Jeleni Grčić Polić i osoblju hrvatskog konzulata u Chicagu; i tajnici Hrvatske vlade Zorici Matković.

## GRAND MARSHALL CARMELLA PARRILLI

The Grand Marshall for the Velika Gospa Procession in our parish's centennial year is Carmella Parrilli, a schoolteacher for five decades.

Carm was born the eldest child of John and Rose Parrilli. Rose, the matriarch of the family, was baptized at St. Jerome, in 1918 and so began the long history of involvement with the parish. The family grew into nine children, seven girls, and two boys. The family includes, the late Anne, Rosemarie, John, Dan, Diane and Michelle. Two sisters died before reaching the age of one.

She was raised in her grandparents' building with all her sisters and brothers at 3020 S. Princeton. The large family shared an apartment with 3 bedrooms and 1 bath. It was here where Carmella realized her love of teaching. As a young child Carmella would hold class on the stoop of this building for her brothers, sisters, and cousins.

Family and St. Jerome's were a constant force in Carmella's life, going back as far as Kindergarten when her Uncle Phil, an upper classman at St. Jerome, walked her to school. As the years progressed her brothers and sisters attended also.

Carmella's spiritual life was



cultivated at St. Jerome. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade she received the sacrament of Reconciliation on March 31, 1951 and on Sunday morning, April 1st of that same year, she received First Communion. Later that evening, she received the Sacra-

ment of Confirmation.

Many fond memories followed those spiritual moments. Looking back she recalls the many Velika Gospa celebrations and a visit from Fr. Anthony Dukic at her 10<sup>th</sup> birthday party.

The faculty members — including, Sr. Raphael, Sr. Margaret Ann, Sr. Concelia, Sr. Benedict — made lasting impressions that would only strengthen her desire to be a teacher.

In the spring of 1956, Carmella graduated with the largest class in St. Jerome's history. In the fall of that same year with many of her St. Jerome's classmates, she attended St. Mary of Perpetual Help High School, until her graduation in 1960. Her dreams of being a teacher at St. Jerome were uppermost in her mind.

She entered Mundelein College, and after only one year her dream of being a teacher at St. Jerome's

**See CARM, on page 3**

## NADOLAZEĆI DOGAĐAJI....

- **Hodočašće Holy Hill — subota 25. kolovoza**
- **Velika Gospa Golf Turnir — nedjelja 26. kolovoza**
- **Hrvatska škola početak — 8. rujna**
- **Sv. Misa za obljetnice braka — nedjelja, 23. rujna**
- **Hrvatska žena modna revija — 28. listopada 773 525 8571**
- **Zatvaranje 100. obljetnice slavlja župe sv. Jeronima hodočašćem u Rim i Asiz — 8. do 18. listopada**

## Naš gost, fra Robert Jolić

**Fra Robert Jolić, OFM**, predvodi Sv. Misu na Veliku Gospu.

Robert je rođen u župi Kongora kod Tomislavgrada 14. travnja 1967. Nakon završene osnovne škole pohađa franjevačku gimnaziju u Visokom.

U **Franjevački red** stupio je 1986. godine na Humcu. Studij filozofije i teologije pohađao je u Sarajevu, Zagrebu i Grazu, gdje je diplomirao i magistrirao iz teologije. Za svećenika je zaređen 1994. u Tomislavgradu.

Nakon ređenja djelovao je kao župni pomoćnik u Duvnu (1994.-1995.) i Posušju (1995.-1997.). U SAD odlazi 1997. i djeluje u Chicagu (1997.-1998.) i New Yorku (1998.-2001). Godine 2001. vraća se u Domovinu te upisuje poslijediplomski studij na Filozofskom fakultetu u Zagrebu,



odsjek Hrvatska povijest. Iz Zagreba odlazi u Gospičko-Senjsku biskupiju te godinu dana djeluje kao župni pomoćnik u župama Plaški i Saborsko (2003.-2004.). Potom se vraća u Hercegovinu te djeluje kao župni vikar u župama Tomislavgrad (2004.-2008.) i Citluk (od 2008.).

Doktorirao je u Zagrebu 2009. na temu: „Demografske promjene u Brotnju (zapadna Hercegovina) u osmanskom razdoblju na temelju crkvenih i osmanskih izvora“. Od 2005. je glavni urednik mjesečnika **Naša ognjišta**. Fra Robert je napisao brojne recenzije i osvrtne, pisac je 18 knjiga i autor desetaka članaka objavljenim u raznim publikacijama.

Fra Robert, dobro došao opet u našu zajednicu!

### Our guest for Velika Gospa — Fr. Robert Jolić

**Fr. Robert Jolic, OFM**, will be the main celebrant of the High Mass on Velika Gospa.

He was born April 14, 1967 in the parish of Kongora near the Croatian town of Tomislavgrad. After completing elementary school, he entered the Franciscan High School in Visoko.

He entered the Franciscan Order in 1986 at the Novitiate in Humac. Brother Robert then studied philosophy and theology in Sarajevo, Zagreb and Graz, Austria, where he graduated in theology and also received a Master's Degree.

He was ordained in 1994 in Tomislavgrad. Fr. Robert served as an associate pastor in Tomislavgrad (Duvno) in 1994-95 and Posusje 1995-97.

In 1997, Fr. Robert came to

America, serving in Chicago 1997-98 at Sacred Heart and St. Jerome's and in New York 1998-2001.

In 2001 he returned to Croatia for graduate studies in history at the University of Zagreb. His pastoral work also continued, as an associate pastor in Plaski and Saborsko 2003-04, in Tomislavgrad 2004-08, and in Citluk since 2008.

Fr. Robert received his doctorate in Zagreb in 2009 for a thesis about demographic changes in a portion of western Herzegovina during Ottoman times.

Since 2005 he has been the editor of the monthly magazine "Nasa Ognjista." He has written numerous articles and reviews, as well as 18 books.

Welcome back to St. Jerome's, Fr. Robert!

## NAŠA GRAND MARSHALL: CARMELLA PARRILLI

Grand Marshall procesije za Veliku Gospu o 100-toj obljetnici naše župe je Carmella Parrilli, koja je bila učiteljica 50 godina.

Rođena je kao najstarija od devetero djece u obitelji Johna i Rose Parrilli. Od malena je željela postati učiteljicom. U sv. Jeronimu je krštena, primila svetu pričest i krizmu. Puno je sjećanja veže za školu i za proslave Velike Gospe. Učiteljice u školi u to vrijeme — s. Raphael, s. Margaret Ann, s. Conciela, s. Benedict — su ostavile duboki dojam na nju, što je pojačalo želju da postane učiteljica. U proljeće 1956. završila je osnovnu školu u Svetom Jeronimu i u jesen krenula u srednju školu St. Mary of Perpetual Help. Misao da postane učiteljica je uvijek bila prisutna. Primljena je na Mundelein College i samo nakon godinu dana njen san da bude učiteljica u Svetom Jeronimu se ostvario. Najprije je radila pola dana u dječjem vrtiću, ali je ubrzo morala ustupiti to radno mjesto jednoj časnoj

sestri, pa se zaposlila u osnovnoj školi St. Mary of Perpetual Help, gdje je ostala 2 godine. Zatim se zaposlila u osnovnoj školi St. Agnes i nastavila studij na Loyola University. 1987. škola St. Agnes se zatvorila pa se ponovo zaposlila u Svetom Jeronimu što joj je još uvijek bio san. 1988. je postala pomoćnica ravnateljice škole i nastavlja predavati matematiku sve do lipnja 2012. godine kada je otišla u mirovinu. Bila je uključena u aktivnosti župe, pogotovo one vezane za proslavu Velike Gospe. Ova zajednica je igrala veoma važnu ulogu u njezinu životu, ne samo na duhovnom nego i na socijalnom planu. Upoznala je mnogo prijatelja, učitelja, svećenika koje je voljela. I veza njezine obitelji se i dalje nastavlja jer ovu jesen već 4. generacija počima upisom u školu sv. Jeronima.

Čestitke, Carm, na časnoj ulozi u procesiji i na 50 godina učiteljskog rada!

## CARM

*continued from page 1*

was achieved. Ms. Parrilli began teaching half-day Kindergarten. Her first class included some long standing parishioners, including Juliana Perisin, Denise Basso, Michael Wagner, Fred Barbara, Carl Giogrosso and Frank Scalise, to name a few.

Carmella left the next year, to make way for Sr. Imelda, the principal, to teach a half day. But teaching was in her blood and she began a job at St. Mary of Perpetual Help grammar school. She taught there for 2 years, the whole time, going to

school at night and working a regular job on week-ends to pay for college.

Three years from her first job at St. Jerome, she returned to teach the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class, which had been her first Kindergarten class. Meanwhile, the family had bought their own single family home in Brighton Park.

It was here that her youngest sister Michelle was born in 1965. Though she left the neighborhood, her love for St. Jerome's never ended.

She did not have a car so she took a job at St. Agnes grammar school just blocks from her house. She taught grades

1-8 and departmental math. While teaching at St. Agnes, she graduated from Loyola University.

In 1987, St. Agnes closed and Carmella interviewed for the position of departmental math, grades 5-8 at St. Jerome. She had reached her dream. In 1988, she became assistant principal and continued to teach at St. Jerome until her retirement in June of 2012. While teaching at St. Jerome her involvement was not only in the school but also the parish.

In her tenure at St. Jerome with her sister Ro Catino she coordinated the

**See CARM, on page 4**

## UPCOMING EVENTS....

- **Midwest Pilgrimage to Holy Hill August 25**
- **Velika Gospa Golf Outing August 26**
- **St. Jerome School Year begins Aug. 22 — 312 842 7668**
- **Marriage Anniversaries Mass — September 23**
- **Croatian Woman's Fashion Show October 28**
- **Pilgrimage to Rome & Assisi, Oct. 8-18 — the closing of parish's 100th anniversary year celebrations**





**St. Jerome Croatian  
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## VELIKA GOPSA PARKING

Please call and tell your friends and relatives that we have plentiful parking available for our feast. Thanks to our neighbors, we have the following:

\*\*\*\* **Old Neighborhood  
Italian American Club  
parking** (30th & Shields)

\*\*\*\* **State of Illinois park-  
ing under the Dan Ryan  
highway** (entrance on 27th  
St., between Wentworth Ave.  
and Wells Street)

**Croatian Catholic Radio -  
Saturdays**

**10 a.m. - 750 AM**

[www.stjeromecroatian.org](http://www.stjeromecroatian.org)

## OUR LADY OF SINJ

The feast day of Velika Gospa (Assumption Day, August 15th) is to Croats what St. Patrick's Day is to the Irish, or what Columbus Day is to the Italians. The tradition of Velika Gospa originated in the town of Sinj, Croatia.

History tells us that in the year 1715 the barbaric army of the Ottoman Empire was advancing toward the town of Sinj. The army's plan was to capture Sinj and press forward. Indeed, the Turks hoped to conquer all of Europe. The people of Sinj, fearing certain annihilation in the face of overwhelming odds, implored the intervention of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Throughout the night of August 14th, they held a prayer vigil before their



painting of the Virgin Mary, under the title at that time of "Our Lady of Grace."

The following morning, August 15th, on the great feast of the Assumption of Mary into heaven, an apparition of a beautiful lady appeared in the sky. The faithful recognized her as the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Turkish soldiers saw her and became violently ill. They were unable to cross the river to Sinj, and returned to their territory.

Through Our Lady of Sinj's miraculous intervention, the attack was repulsed and the powerful Turks fled.

Ever since that day, the Croats have maintained a unique love and devotion to Mary. Thousands of pilgrims still make the annual pilgrimage to the church in Sinj. Many more thousands around the world seek Our Lady of Sinj's miraculous intervention.

The religious tradition of a Velika Gospa Procession and Mass was brought to Bridgeport in 1906 by Croatian immigrants from Sinj. In 1912, with the founding of a new Croatian parish, St. Jerome's, the Velika Gospa tradition secured permanent roots in Chicago.

## CARM

*continued from page 3*

Velika Gospa children's games. She enlisted the help of her sister Diane Schillo and her close friends Joanne Vari, Diane Halloran, and countless others. She was able to include the St. Jerome students to fulfill their obligations for service hours.

Ms. Parrilli, has taught hundreds of students throughout her career, including her sister Michelle and many nieces and nephews, cousins, and friends' children. All who have been taught by her have been touched in many ways and remember a teacher who made math a practical part of their lives.

Many special moments have taken part at the church as she watched her loved

ones be baptized, make their communions and confirmations, graduate and get married. She was supported during the hard times of funerals of family and friends realizing their new beginnings in Christ through the St. Jerome's community.

This community has played a big part in her life, not only spiritually, but also in the many friends, the fellow teachers and the priests she has come to know and love.

This year, Jaidyn, the Parrilli family's 4<sup>th</sup> generation at St. Jerome's, will begin 3-year-old Pre-School. In true Parrilli tradition, along with her mother and grandmother, Carmella will be there to walk her into school.

Congratulations to Carm on being Grand Marshall and on 50 years as a schoolteacher.