

# Anna Gram April 2015

St. Anna's Episcopal Church, 1313 Esplanade, New Orleans  
[www.stannanola.org](http://www.stannanola.org) (504) 947-2121

## Saturday Program Health Fair

On March 7th Anna's Place NOLA held a health fair for the kids in our Saturday Program. There were lung, dental, scoliosis and eye screenings and we weighed and measured students. Parents were notified of any abnormal or troubling findings and given resources to follow-up for dental or eye care. This was the first chance to use our new Eye Camera, a purchase made possible by the Urban Ministry Grant. We'll be scheduling eye screenings and heights/weights for the After-School kids in the coming weeks.



## Extravaganza Tickets are available through the [stannanola.org](http://stannanola.org) website *Indulge Yourself!*

Generations Hall; Saturday, April 18; 7-10 pm. Wonderful performances by Topsy Chapman and Solid Harmony, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, and Tremé Choir members; hosts Tony Leggio and Miss Elizabeth Bouvier; wine pull, silent auction, live auction. A raffle ticket for a saints football signed by Drew Brees, Marcus Colston, and Mark Ingram is just \$10 -- winner need not be present. (Tickets available at church) Come and *bring your friends!* Funds raised benefit the Dodwell House and its missions. Indulge yourself: a great evening for a great cause!

## Tax Deductible Receipt Reminder

St. Anna's will provide you with an end-of-year record/receipt for pledges, donations, in-kind gifts, etc. made directly to the church or to any of its missions. **HOWEVER**, any money given during or for a **FUNDRAISER** will NOT be listed on your church record. Receipts for these events should be kept by you separately. Examples are:

**Extravaganza. Champagne & Chocolate** or other events where we collect your name/info:

- If purchased online - print and keep the receipt that is offered to you there;
- If paid by check or cash - we will send you a thank you letter/receipt

**Pancake Breakfast or Concerts** or other events where there is a "donation" to participate and your name/info is not collected:

There usually will not be an online option.

If you want a receipt please ask at the time of the donation as we will not have a record of it later.

## Palm Sunday Procession and Crawfish!



The Storyville Stompers led the procession. The mass was magnificent--and so were the crawfish!



### GiveNOLA Day is coming again May 5th

a fun, easy and highly effective way to grow support for our St Anna's missions (Anna's Arts & SAMM - now Anna's Place NOLA). Join our team of Anna's Place Champions: help us beat last year's record by promoting and participating in this exciting 24 hour event. Contact [adrienne@stannanola.org](mailto:adrienne@stannanola.org) to get involved. "Like" the St Anna's Facebook page today!



## **Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow!" by Fr. Bill Terry**

The "reredos" as an art form has its roots deep in English history dating back prior to the Reformation but taken to new heights after the Reformation. St. Anna's has always been a bit gritty. Our floors have always needed work, lights repaired, touch up paint here and there. We have taken pride in our benign neglect because our fund raising efforts have generally been directed to mission. That has not changed.

Several months ago an artisan or perhaps more rightly an artist offered to design and cause to be constructed both a new chapel setting as a memorial chapel in the Narthex (foyer) and also to rebuild and effectively give us a new reredos. Joel Dyer is that artist and he along with a small cadre of other artists devoted hour upon hours to hand paint what we now behold. He also enlisted the help of a young new and exciting artisan, Brandon Way. Brandon is a Peace Corps graduate and now operates a fine woodworking firm.

Together this team created what we now behold. The brass altar ware was donated several years ago by myself and Vicki Terry as a Memorial to our daughter Tonya. Together the ensemble has created a deeply reverential space for us to worship in. The profound beauty of what some would call a "High Altar" is moving and lends a certain dignity that is perhaps new to us all.



One of the new pieces of reverence is a tabernacle located in the center of the reredos, and tradition holds that one is to genuflect (down on one knee) before the altar, based on the scriptural admonition that "every knee shall bend at the name of Jesus." The older tabernacle located in the side wall of the "sanctuary" is still an honored place and is now an "ambry." "An ambry (or almery, aumbry; from the medieval form *almarium*, cf. Lat. *armarium*, "a place for keeping tools"; cf. O. Fr. *aumoire*

and mod. [armoire](#)) is a recessed cabinet in the wall of a Christian [church...](#)" and in this case we will be storing our Holy Oils and a relic or two in this august place of notice.

We look forward to the installation of the "Chapel" art and woodwork which will reside in the Narthex as an accessible and beautiful place for the community to pray. So, while we continue to do the work of our Lord in our community we also have been blessed by donations of time, talent and treasure with these gifts in elevating our Lord and our worship in the visions before us in the reredos and soon to be installed *Chapel of the Holy Family*.

### **Concert at St. Luke's Episcopal**

Our choristers, directed by William Parsons, raised their voices in a concert at St. Luke's to raise funds for scholarships to enable some St. Luke's children to attend *Anna's Place NOLA*.



## **THANK YOU to all of Anna's Place NOLA 2015 Funders:**

Urban Ministry  
Jazz & Heritage Foundation  
German-Protestant Orphan Asylum  
Trinity Episcopal Church, New Orleans – Vincent Memorial Legacy Grant  
Harrah's/City of New Orleans (Councilmembers Jason Williams, Nadine Ramsey)

St. Francis Episcopal Church, Stamford, CT  
Jewish Endowment Foundation  
New Orleans Uptown Lions Club

## Save labels—raise money for Anna's Place

Every time you purchase a BEST CHOICE item from Rouses's Supermarket (their generic brand), save the UPC label and place it in the zip-lock bag on the Parish Hall bulletin board. That's it! We'll do the rest. *Anna's Place NOLA* will receive \$30 for each 1000 labels submitted. What we do need from you is to PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD! The more involved, the more labels, etc. Hooray!

## Drew Boswell and Drew's Tunes

As some may know, the story of little Drew is a poignant one. Drew at an early age left us and joined our Lord. His parents were devastated and remain very aware and sad that Drew is not here to brighten up the world. But wait! Drew is here. More than a memory Drew is, by his name, his image, and his love for music raising awareness and funding for other children to learn to love music as much as he does. Yes, Drew is very much alive. Also of great delight, Drew is about to be joined by a new baby sister or brother. His mother Georgia is pregnant and his father can hardly wait to embrace the new addition to their family.



But the passing of Drew from this life was not to be tolerated by Georgia and her husband Devron. No, no, life is too precious. The result is a non-profit foundation called Drew's Tunes. This wonderful foundation recently delivered a check in the amount of \$9,000 to our planned summer camp for Anna's Place. The Camp is in fact now and will permanently be called "Drew's Crew." This singular donation is the basis for raising the \$25,000 necessary to host about 50 kids for 4 weeks in collaboration with Christ Church Cathedral. In addition this year Grace Church in St. Francisville will be offering a "Summer Day in the Country" for the Drew's Crew students. I know that Drew is giggling as we read this.



When Georgia and Devron came to St. Anna's to deliver the check and to get the requisite photo op you should have seen the children. Several who have been with us for a while and who know Drew's story came running and yes, Georgia was the Madonna, surrounded by love with hugs and big smiles. The room was filled with warmth and yes, its the warmth of a child and his parents that continues to be a light for us all. Thank you Drew, thank you Drew's Tunes, thank you Georgia and Devron and new baby Boswell.

## Extravaganza Sponsors

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The Very Rev. Ronald Clingenpeel  
William Rose  
Gary Van Vonderen

## Life of a Parish Administrator: Getting Started

by Luigi Mandile

After I talked myself into finally contacting St. Anna's for an interview, I spoke to Ms. Diana Meyers, who was in charge of the unit. I was told to meet her at the Church Parish building the following day for the interview.

I dressed in my best, nice slacks, tie, shoes polished as should be done for any job interview. I arrived a little early, again as one should do when interviewing (it looks good). I met with Ms. Meyers and she explained the duties as driver of the unit. Father Terry came in to the Parish Hall to interview me also. Upon his arrival first thing he said was "and this is the famous Luigi I have been hearing so much about from Sean."

We spoke for an hour or more, as you all may know that is not a long time to speak with Father Terry. I left feeling good about the interview and was told they would make a decision and contact me. Later that evening I received a call from Diana and she said they wanted me to join them at St. Anna's. I started two days later. I was to be trained by a Deacon from another church who had been driving the unit until someone was hired. At the time I started it was only a year after Katrina. There were volunteers everywhere. We had many doctors and nurses from all over the United States to help on Medical Unit. We had Physicians as well as mental health Doctors, and all were very badly needed.

As I am being trained to drive the Medical Unit, we also had volunteers some that had never even been in the Deep South before. With that in mind the summer weather and rains could take its toll on some of the volunteers.

I am not only driving the Medical Unit I am also watching over the volunteers and trying to assist them by setting up tables and chairs for the patients, completing forms for the Doctors to see the patient and at times determine if a patient really needed to see a Physician or a mental health doctor. The job was much more than just driving the Medical Unit, and I personally could not have been happier. I now felt I was truly making some kind of difference, by helping our city and citizens in ways I never thought I would have been capable of doing.

I was told by the Deacon training me to drive that he would only be available for a few days then I was on my own. When he told me this I went into panic mode, can I really drive this big unit around the city? OK, I am short we all know this; the thought of sitting behind the wheel of this unit terrified me.

The first week of driving the unit alone was scary but I managed. You had to navigate around streets that were closed off and debris was still everywhere. The church parking lot where the unit was parked had to be reached only through small streets. Driving the unit to the parking lot was usually a challenge most days.

However, I did have a co-pilot on most days, if not Diana, a volunteer. I had Roman Catholic Priest on the unit--could not hurt having a priest on board with me daily. Father was a great guy, a Jesuit priest. He was very compassionate to everyone. Being raised a strict Roman Catholic, Father was the type of Priest that tested the waters of his order even by Jesuit standards. Father was also a Nurse Practitioner.

Father also was very challenged with his eye sight. He wore very, very thick eye glasses. Diana was always amused to watch Father try to direct my driving down the very narrow streets to the parking lot, me just able to look over the dashboard and Father with his coke bottle glasses directing me down the narrow street.

About two weeks into my new driving skills, I truly thought I was getting it down and was kind of proud. Well that feeling would be crushed soon enough. I was advised that we had to bring the unit to the McDonough 35 School a block behind the church once a week for use by school children.

The first day I drove the unit around the block to the school I had Diana as my copilot. We dropped the unit off and went back to the office for the day. When the time came to bring the unit back, it was clear there was a challenge to get out of the school drive way with the very narrow streets. This took some time to do. Then we then had to turn the corner onto Maris Street. Turning the corner was the worst moment to this point of my very short driving history with the church. There were parked cars and I saw a telephone pole that was next to the unit that was crushed down and pointed out to the street from the storm.

I asked my copilot of the day, if I was clear to turn. I was told we were good to go. I turned the corner confident until I heard a ripping and scrapping sound. The unit tilted to the curb and I froze. I found out I was looking at one telephone pole and my copilot was looking at another one next to the one I was looking at, not good. We were impaled onto the pole that was leaning into the street. I went into panic mode. We tried everything, but nothing would work. In my panic I ran back to the church office to get Father Terry to help. He walked down the block, and not knowing Father Terry all that well yet, he gave me a look saying what can I do I am a priest not a magician.

I knew my days if not the day were numbered. I would be fired for this. I contacted Entergy and, as it was an old energy pole, they could do nothing. We sat there for two more hours until the fire department could come out and cut the pole off the unit. After I parked the unit, the only thought was OK there are doctors everywhere, someone has to have a Xanax or something to calm me down. Father and Diana were all too aware of how I felt and said "Well, it happens".

So, I prepared to go home and was told we will see you in the morning by Father and Diana. My job was still there.....