



# Family Link

News for the friends of Holy Cross Family Ministries

The Family That Prays Together Stays Together™

## Family Matters!

A message from Father John Phalen, CSC,  
President, Holy Cross Family Ministries.

I was a part of the third Glorious Mystery at the Family Rosary Fest on June 6, 2009. I'll never forget it! If people continue to respond to the ministry of Servant of God Father Peyton, then this will be a story told to one's grandchildren years and years from now. The Rosary Fest was a truly blessed event for so many people from southern Massachusetts. The Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Daughters of America, the



**Father John Phalen, CSC**

World Apostolate of Fatima, the Daughters of Isabella and folks young and old from various ethnic groups praised God in a public Rosary that was a beautiful event to behold. In my travels I have run into elderly people who tell me, "I was a part of that Rosary out on the field

when Father Peyton came to Melbourne in the 1950's! I'll never forget it!"

But we are not just creating happy memories in Holy Cross Family Ministries. We are helping the Church create a culture of life and a culture of prayer in an era characterized by death and secularism. We are promoting the family as the basic unit of society and strengthening that unit through group prayer. We are traveling the globe to bring the message to 17 countries where we have offices and in many other countries where a great interest has been shown.

Where do most people discover that their lives have purpose because God loves them? Where else if not in the home? Where do most people learn to serve others, to share and to forgive? Where but in the context of the family? Where do

**Continued on page 2**



**Family Rosary Fest attendees share the spirit.**

## More than 1,000 gather for Family Rosary Fest

As the sun broke through the clouds late morning Saturday, June 6, more than 1,000 people gathered to pray and live out the vision of sainthood candidate Father Patrick Peyton, CSC, that the family that prays together stays together. Father Peyton coined this famous phrase in the late 1940s for his weekly radio show on Mutual Broadcasting Network, and it immediately became a household phrase.

"Father Peyton and his family prayed the Rosary together every evening in their home. They had very little materially, but so much spiritually. It's amazing that this large gathering of families praying the Rosary here in Massachusetts and in 17 countries, all grew out of the Peyton family praying the Rosary," said Father John Phalen, CSC, President of Holy Cross Family Ministries. "Father Peyton learned in his home the importance of the family Rosary and spread that devotion throughout his life. We all want peace in our families, we want to support each other lovingly and we want to strengthen each other. All this, and so much more, can be achieved through daily Rosary prayer."

Dressed in ethnic garb of the country they were representing, the prayer leaders at the multi-cultural, multi-lingual event prayed in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Tagalog, Swahili, Gaelic, Latvian, and several other languages.

The event opened with praise and worship music by local musicians and choir groups interspersed between the keynote witness talks. Father Phalen evoked a response from the crowd with his opening comment, "The Rosary's a family matter because the family matters."

Highlighting the afternoon event were two Bishops, Bishop Yves-Marie Pean, CSC, Director of the Family Rosary in Haiti and the Bishop of Gonaive, spoke emphatically about the Rosary as prayed for peace. Bishop George Coleman of Fall River, the host Bishop, commented on the return to the Rosary, which seems to characterize our times. Keynotes were also shared by Gerrie Stadelmann, a recent survivor of the terrorist attack in Mumbai, India, Father George Hanson of Holy Name Church in Fall River and Silveria Furtado of New Bedford.

Visit [hcfm.org](http://hcfm.org) for event photos, videos or more information.

# Family Theater Productions

## Family Matters!

### 100th anniversary of Father Peyton's birth celebrated

A capacity crowd arrived at Family Theater Productions May 20 to observe the 100th anniversary of the birth of Servant of God Father Patrick Peyton, CSC, during its monthly Prayer and Pasta. Father Willy Raymond, CSC, presided and Father David Guffey, CSC, Family Theater's Director of Film and TV, preached and concelebrated the votive Mass of the Blessed Mother. Father Guffey emphasized the heroic qualities and virtues of Father Peyton's life and ministry in his homily.

After a leisurely pasta meal, Sister Mary Anthony, LSP, a Little Sister of the

### Actor reflects on faith during *Rosary Stars* screening in Peoria

*Rosary Stars* actor J. Omar Castro related in English and Spanish his reliance on the power of Rosary prayer and his "faith-driven focus" in dealing with the challenges of pursuing a career as an actor before a reported congregation of nearly 500 May 3, in St. Mary's Cathedral, Peoria, Illinois. Bishop Daniel Jenky, CSC, presided over the ritualized

ceremony during which a portion of Family Theater Productions' *Rosary Stars: Praying the Gospel* DVD, featuring Castro, was screened. Castro, New Orleans native and resident who has acted in 9 feature films

and 14 episodes of popular TV series, led a decade of the Rosary.

For more information about the DVD, connect to [www.rosarystars.org](http://www.rosarystars.org).

Poor who cared for Father Peyton and was at his bedside when he died, June 2, 1992, and Gennie Jota, who retired several years ago as executive director of the Family Rosary Crusade of Manila, the Philippines, reflected on their experiences and recollections of the sainthood candidate.

Continued from page 1

most people learn to appreciate and to participate in Mass and to dedicate each day to their Creator, acknowledging that nothing can be accomplished without God's grace? It's the family that teaches us this perspective.

**There you have it! The Rosary is a family matter, because the family matters! God bless you!**



Little Sisters of the Poor celebrate Father Peyton's birthday at Mass.

### Angelus honored films draw 200 at Notre Dame

Four honored films of the Angelus Student Film Festival and three of their filmmakers drew media coverage and approximately 200 people, nearly filling the Browning Cinema, DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, at University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, April 30.

The trip was sponsored by the Peter Glenville Foundation and the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture.

In other news, the Angelus Student Film Festival was named one of "25 Festivals Worth the Entry Fee" by *MovieMaker* magazine in its Spring issue.

### Marian Celebration on *Mary Model of Motherhood* held

The day's festivities held at the Basilian Marian Shrine of Gratitude in Toronto on May 16 began with prayer and blessing with benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Formation and education sessions followed, including a presentation on Divine Motherhood by Laetitia Rhatigan of Holy Cross Family Ministries. The day ended with a candlelight procession and the prayer of the Rosary. Rosary Makers from the Mission Canada Rosary Makers attended the event and shared their skills and dedication to making Rosaries to be sent around the world.



# Family Rosary

## Mission Director offers insights on Rosary

**B**eth Mahoney, Mission Director for Holy Cross Family Ministries, Easton, Mass., gave three presentations on the Rosary to families in Illinois during the month of March.

At **St. John the Baptist parish** in Clinton, she explained the history, mysteries and prayers of the Rosary and then asked the families questions. When a family answered correctly, they reached into a basket and pulled out a colored plastic egg and at the conclusion, the families gathered with a Rosary made out of the plastic eggs, and prayed while thinking of a person who needed their prayers.

Ms. Mahoney also spoke on “The Many Faces of Mary” to more than 100 adult parishioners from St. John the Baptist, St. Patrick’s in Wapella and Sacred Heart in Framer City. She told about the five gazes of Mary, each one associated with a different mystery of the Rosary.

She led a Day of Recollection at **St. Mary’s Parish**, East Moline, for many catechists and teachers from parishes in the Quad Cities, demonstrating how to teach and understand the Rosary, as well as information and insights about the history and the mysteries of the Rosary. They reflected on how the Mysteries of the Rosary are indeed the mysteries of their own lives.

At **St. Ann’s parish**, East Moline, Ms. Mahoney led more than 40 people in reflecting on how they can relate their lives to the mysteries of the Rosary.

After they screened *The Eggplant Lady*, a film produced by Family Theater Productions, the group prayed the Sorrowful Mysteries.

“The reflections led those in attendance to think differently about how we see the mysteries and how we pray the Rosary,” Ms. Mahoney said.



## Rev. Steve Gibson, CSC, new spiritual director in Ireland

**F**ather Steve Gibson, CSC, has been appointed the spiritual director of The Father Peyton Centre in Attymass, County Mayo, Ireland.

Father Gibson was ordained in Uganda, East Africa, in 1970, where he continued to work until 1977, when the Fatima Retreat Center at Notre Dame University started a Youth Ministry Program and invited him to direct their retreats. Some 3,000 students came through the various programs each year.

In 1986 at the request of the Provincial of the Indiana Province, he began training and work as a video producer, and began working for Holy Cross Family Ministries in 2000. His productions include *Think Good Thoughts*, *Rediscovering the Rosary*, *The Luminous Mysteries*, and *The Beatification of Basil Moreau*.

In addition to his work as a producer, he has been involved in the training of many young men and women in the field of video production, including personnel of Family Rosary International.

Father Gibson’s duties as Spiritual Director at the Attymass Centre will include attention to pilgrims, preaching retreats, and directing the pastoral outreach of the Centre, continuing Father Peyton’s Rosary mission in Ireland.

“We are very fortunate to have Father Steve assume these responsibilities at the place of Father Peyton’s birth,” said Father John Phalen, CSC, president of Holy Cross Family Ministries. “His years of dedication to the organization and to the mission of Father Peyton will assist the Centre in its goal of serving the people of the area and promoting the mission and cause of Father Peyton to residents and visitors alike.”

**St. Patrick (with mitre) and Father Steve.**



**Father John Phalen, CSC, president of Holy Cross Family Ministries, enjoys lunch with friends and former employees of Father Peyton. Left to right: Kay Senchyna, Jeanne Heiberg, Maureen Riley and Dorothy Halloran. Father Phalen took time out from a retreat he was preaching for the Sisters of Mercy of Albany to attend the celebration.**

## Anniversary celebration held in Albany

**A** grand celebration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Servant of God Patrick J. Peyton, CSC, was held at the Family Rosary, Albany, New York. The celebration began with a gathering of friends, staff, former employees, and volunteers concluded with a luncheon. Eighty people attended the prayer of the Rosary, held at the Grotto of Our Lady in the former Vincentian Institute. Many of those in attendance were students at Vincentian when Father Peyton began his Rosary ministry in Albany in 1942.

As the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary were prayed, a meditation was read on Father Peyton’s relationship to the Grotto and his beginnings in Albany with the Brothers of the Holy Cross, who taught the boys at Vincentian, and the Sisters of Mercy, who taught the girls.

The memories of those who were students and prayed daily at the Grotto welled up into tears as they prayed once again at this beautiful shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes. It was here that Father Peyton left the first packaged sack of letters to be blessed and then mailed to the bishops of the United States.

# Family Link

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– Father John Phalen, CSC, President

## Our Mission

In the spirit of our founder, Servant of God Father Patrick Peyton, CSC, and under the sponsorship of the Congregation of Holy Cross, **Holy Cross Family Ministries** serves Jesus Christ and His Church throughout the world by promoting and supporting the spiritual well-being of the family.

Faithful to Mary, the Mother of God, **Family Rosary** and **Family Rosary International** encourage family prayer, especially the Rosary.

**Family Theater Productions** directs its efforts to the evangelization of culture using mass media to entertain, inspire and educate families.

The **Father Peyton Family Institute** focuses on research and education in family life ministry and the relationship of spirituality to the family.



For more information on these and other stories, go to [www.hcfm.org/familylink](http://www.hcfm.org/familylink)



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*The Family That Prays Together Stays Together™*

# Family Rosary International

## Father Phalen visits Bangladesh

In May Father John Phalen, CSC, President of Holy Cross Family Ministries, retraced the steps of Father Peyton when he visited Bangladesh in 1955. The visits were arranged and prepared by Father Parimal Pereira, CSC, National Director of Family Rosary in Bangladesh.

Among the many high points was a visit to Diang, where Servant of God Brother Flavian LePlante, CSC, spent his last days as a guru in a Marian Ashram (a Hermitage of Mary) after a full career as a chaplain to the Hindu fishermen of the Chittagong area. The two Holy Cross men, Father Peyton and Brother Flavian, shared a great devotion to Our Lady. At the boarding school founded by Brother Flavian, he always led the Rosary each night for all the boys who lived there.

Throughout Khulna, Chittagong and Dhaka, the various venues welcomed talks on Mary and Father Peyton to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the birth of Father Pat. Bishops Bejoy Nicephorus D’Cruze OMI of Khulna, Michael Atul D’Rosario, CSC, of Chittagong and Paulinus Costa, Archbishop of Dhaka, and his Auxiliary Bishop, Theotonius Gomes, CSC, all welcomed Father Phalen’s visits. The Congregation of Holy Cross has been ministering in the country for 150 years.

Besides Banani Major Seminary, Father Phalen spoke a Vadun Retreat Center and



**Bipul A. Gonsalves of Family Rosary and Father Francis Gomes Sima (left); Father Parimal Pereira, CSC (fourth from left); Father John Phalen, CSC, President of Holy Cross Family Ministries (sixth from left); Diocesan Coordinators and other associates at Tejgoan Church.**



**Father Peyton and Brother Flavian, two Holy Cross Servants of God.**

parishes in Toomilia, Shimulia, Muzgunni, Tejgaon, Dhaka, Chittagong, Golla and Hashnabad. Additional photos can be found at [www.hcfm.org](http://www.hcfm.org).

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