

Dances 2008-9  
Thank You All!

Throughout the year, five parishes hosted Dances for Adults with Special Needs. The social calendar began this year with a Halloween Dance at Our Lady of Mercy in Hicksville where ghosts and goblins, princesses and pumpkins had a wonderful time. Students in the Confirmation Program used this as an opportunity for service. It was also an opportunity for great fun! Eileen Young, always in costume herself, organized this non-ghoulish event.

Louanne Hanson, with the help of the Youth Ministry at St. Joseph in Kings Park, served delicious sundaes eaten to the sounds of music which echoed through Travis Hall at the Sundae Disco Dance in January. Cold weather did dampen the spirits of the ice cream lovers who found their way to Kings Park.

February would not be complete without the Valentines Dance at Sacred Heart Parish in North Merrick. Cecelia Lerro, and all her volunteers, has been devoted to this dance for years. Confirmation Candidates and Young Catholic Daughters of America provided and served delicious cookies and cake to the guests who enjoyed their sweets in a sea of red!

March brought the “Wearing of the Green” at St. Bernard in Levittown where Donna Hare, and her volunteers, played hostess. Here, too, Confirmation Candidates were very much in evidence. Music, dessert, and GREEN, were all it took for the participants to have a great time! (Thanks to the generosity of the Knights of Columbus, St. Bernard is also the scene of a wonderful Christmas Party for children and adults with special needs each year. Jim and Sheila McHale deserve special thanks for their tireless devotion to this spirit-warming event!)

In June, Judith Brady organizes the Dinner Dance at St. Frances de Chantal in Wantagh. This is a very popular, reservations only event. The Young Vincentians, members of the Youth Ministry, and Confirmation Candidates, all help serve the hungry guests with a delicious pasta and meatball dinner before they dance the night away.

To these five parishes, the students at Our Lady of Marcy Academy need to be added. Sister Meghan organized the Christmas Dance at the Academy last year. It was difficult to see who had more fun-the students or the adults. For both, it provided an experience of Christmas.

In addition to the above, Joe Amadeo hosts social events for Youths and Young Adults with Special Needs at Christ the King Parish in Commack throughout the year. He can be contacted at [amadeo@optonline.net](mailto:amadeo@optonline.net) for information about these ongoing events.

If you would like to host a parish event for persons with special needs, please contact me in the Office of Faith Formation: Ministry with Persons with Special Needs. I will be very happy to add your name to the social events calendar for the 2009-10 season! Mary Anne Russo (516-678-5800 ex 540) [marusso@drvc.org](mailto:marusso@drvc.org)