

FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC

JUNE 2017 | VOLUME 34, NUMBER 6 | GRADUATION ISSUE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



10 *Sister Amanda serves 'Whole Foods'*



25 *Annual 'Vals and Sals' high school roundup*

Looking for a way to **connect** with the best aspects of your diocese?

Facebook: [Diocese of Bridgeport Bishop Frank J. Caggiano](#)

Twitter: [@diobpt](#) [@BishopCaggiano](#)

Instagram: [dioceseofbridgeport](#) [bishopfrankcaggiano](#)



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

planMYcare.com

Schedule Appointments Online
Urgent Care • Primary Care Walk-In
Mammography



FINISH YOUR DEGREE
ON YOUR TIME
BY REGISTERING FOR
Summer & Fall Courses

Check out our course offerings and upcoming start terms!

www.sacredheart.edu



First Holy Communion

This spring, more than 4,300 young boys and girls in second and third grades received First Holy Communion in parishes throughout the diocese. It was an exciting and happy time for children and their parents after months of preparation, including their first Confession.

The First Eucharist (coming from the Greek word meaning “thanksgiving”) for children is also an important moment for the entire parish community because the young people join the faithful around the table of God’s family. “First Holy Communion reminds us that all must come to Christ as soon as possible with the mindset of children—be expectant, be in awe and be surprised by the Lord in our lives,” said Rose Talbot Babey, coordinator of elementary formation in the diocese. Many thanks to all priests, pastors and the directors of religious education (DREs) who prepare children for reception of sacraments throughout the diocese. ■



ON THE COVER

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION—Students from the St. Ann Academy of the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport receive First Holy Communion. May is the season of First Communions across the diocese and a time for many family celebrations. (Photo by Michelle Babyak)

CONTENTS

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|--|
| 5 | CATHEDRAL ACADEMY GOLF CLASSIC
<i>Scores for student scholarships</i> | 14 | CONNECTING YOUTH TO THE EUCHARIST
<i>Directors of Religious Education (DREs)</i> |
| 7 | CELEBRATING OUR LADY OF FATIMA
<i>Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Wilton</i> | 15 | PRIEST PROFILE
<i>Father Eric Silva, St. Joseph, Brookfield</i> |
| 9 | ON THE SHOULDER OF GIANTS
<i>Notre Dame High School Farewells</i> | 33 | FOUNDATIONS IN EDUCATION
<i>Gala raises \$800,000 for scholarships</i> |
| 11 | ANNOUNCE JESUS IN PUBLIC SQUARES
<i>The Great Mission comes to Danbury</i> | 38 | BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS
<i>Bishop honors top scholars and athletes</i> |



Latest News

Bishop Caggiano receives SHU Honorary Degree

FAIRFIELD—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano delivered the keynote address to the undergraduates and received an honorary Doctor of Theology degree at the 51st Commencement Exercises of Sacred Heart University, held at the Webster Bank Arena.

More than 2,000 Sacred Heart University students embarked upon a new journey the weekend of May 13-14, after receiving diplomas and words of advice and motivation from religious leaders, scholars and classmates. “We gather here in this vast arena to celebrate your equally vast accomplishments and achievements,” Bishop Caggiano said.

“You have much to celebrate and much to be proud of during these past years. You have opened your minds and hearts to discover the gifts and talents that God has given to each and every one of you.”

During his speech, Bishop Caggiano asked the graduates about leadership. “What does a true leader look like? A true leader, my friends, is a man or woman who never uses people as a means to an end, a true leader is not someone who measures success simply in terms of material possessions, a true leader never forgets that a measure of a person’s heart is the principles on which that person will live.”

President John J. Petillo addressed undergraduate students on May 14. “Today is indeed your



HONORARY DEGREE—SHU President Dr. John Petillo present an Honorary Doctorate of Theology Degree to Bishop Caggiano at the 51st commencement exercises.

day. These past few years have slipped by so quickly. Yet in these years, friends have been made, knowledge has been shared and experiences have been afforded.” Dr. Petillo told the students to always ask “why,” and to “be uncomfortable so that as you think critically and analytically, and you may grow in knowledge and faith.”

Dr. Petillo ended his speech with, “Don’t try to always be normal, because you will never know how amazing you can be. Chase, reach, stretch for your dreams and hopes. Isn’t that what Pioneers do?”

Theresa “T” Fletcher, class of 2017 president, took her peers down memory lane as she reflect-

ed upon her time at SHU.

“In the classroom, we were not only challenged in our subject matter, but our professors also made us think outside the box. They taught us how to think for ourselves, push ourselves and achieve things that we never thought we could. They taught us to be Pioneers and pave our own path through life.”

Shauna Santos-Dempsey, of Ludlow, Mass., received her bachelor’s degree in social work on Sunday. “I’m excited, nervous and sad,” Santos-Dempsey said about the day. The last four years presented her with many opportunities that she took advantage

of, including becoming a resident assistant and president of her sorority, Chi Omega. “I don’t think I would be who I am today without SHU.”

Santos-Dempsey’s aunt, Annette Plourde, said she was incredibly proud of her niece who has “been through so much” over the last four years. Santos-Dempsey’s mom died while she was at SHU, and Plourde said she was smiling down on her daughter on Mother’s Day.

Spencer Kelly of Shelton received his bachelor’s degree in finance. Before the ceremony began he waited outside the arena with his brother and girlfriend. “It was

a good experience,” Kelly said of the past four years. “I’m ready to be done and start working.” Kelly landed a job at Cartus in Danbury.

Saturday’s festivities were all about the university’s graduate students. “In gathering today, we are celebrating an accomplishment, a dream, a recognition. Each of you has spent these past months and years preparing for your future. The faculties have taught you necessary strategies and skills for your careers,” Dr. Petillo said. “As this journey ends, please remember that it is character and virtues that will define you.”

Sacred Heart University, the second-largest independent Catholic university in New England, offers more than 70 undergraduate, graduate, doctoral and certificate programs on its main campus in Fairfield and at satellites in Connecticut, Luxembourg and Ireland. More than 8,500 students attend the university’s five colleges: Arts & Sciences; Health Professions; Nursing; the Jack Welch College of Business; and the Isabelle Farrington College of Education.

The *Chronicle of Higher Education* names SHU one of the fastest-growing Roman Catholic universities in its 2016 almanac. Sacred Heart fields 32 division I athletic teams and has an award-winning program of community service. ■

Father Joseph Marcello named Vicar for Clergy

BRIDGEPORT—Father Joseph Marcello has been named vicar of clergy of the Diocese of Bridgeport, effective June 30. In making the announcement, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano said that Father Marcello will continue to serve as pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull.

The Office of Clergy and Religious serves the more than 300 active and retired priests and deacons of the Diocese of Bridgeport as well as 350 religious. Father Marcello’s responsibilities include coordination of assignments for all clergy, continuing education and formation, and support services for the personal well being of active and

retired priests and deacons.

“Though a young priest, Father Marcello has held a variety of administrative and pastoral posts in the diocese, and he brings excellent leadership and pastoral skills to his role of serving and supporting our priests,” said the bishop.

The post has been temporarily held since January 2016, by Msgr. Thomas Powers, vicar general of the diocese. Prior to that, Father Ian Jeremiah and Msgr. Kevin Royal served as vicars for clergy.

Father Marcello was installed as the fifth pastor of the Parish of St. Catherine of Siena by Bishop Caggiano on Laetare Sunday, March 15, 2015.



FATHER JOSEPH MARCELLO

Among his many diocesan posts, Father Marcello has served as secretary of the Presbyteral Council, on the for-

mation faculty of the diocese’s Permanent Diaconate Formation Program, as one of the diocese’s assistant vocation directors and as vice chancellor of the Diocese of Bridgeport.

In 2009, Father Marcello became priest secretary to Bishop William E. Lori, Fourth Bishop of Bridgeport. He also held the post of priest secretary in the Archdiocese of Baltimore when Bishop Lori was named to the Archdiocese of Baltimore in 2012.

He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Lori on May 17, 2003, at St. Theresa Church in Trumbull, Father Marcello’s home parish.

Father Marcello’s first assignment was as parochial vicar at St.

Joseph Parish in Shelton, beginning in June, 2003. While at St. Joseph, he also served as assistant director of vocations. From 2005 to 2009, he taught theology and served as spiritual director of St. Joseph High School in Trumbull.

He graduated from St. Joseph High School in 1994 and from Fairfield University in 1998 with a B.A. in religion. After entering St. John Fisher Seminary to begin his studies, Father Marcello completed his theology degree at Mount St. Mary Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., in 2003.

His parents, Joseph and Ellen Marcello, live in Monroe, and his sister Lisa, his brother-in-law James, and his two nieces live in Trumbull. ■

Annual Catholic Appeal

Lay leaders drive success

BRIDGPORT—With the Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) nearing the \$10 million mark, William McLean, chief development officer of the diocese, says he is extremely grateful to lay leaders for their efforts to make the campaign a success. In particular, he thanked appeal chairs Elena and Steve Schlegel of St. Aloysius Parish in New Canaan and this year's vice chair couple, Conrad and Carol Calandra of St. Lawrence Parish in Shelton.

McLean says the new vicariate chairs have also done an outstanding job of getting the message out to people: Jennifer and Kevin Keating of Darien; Sue and John Steitz of Wilton; Roxanne and Jason Melaragno of Fairfield; Carol and Conrad Calandra of Shelton; Anne LeClerc of Danbury; and Angelo Cocco of Bridgeport.

"Our lay leadership has great

credibility when they ask people to give because it's really parishioner to parishioner. They're making a difference wherever they go," said McLean.

McLean is pleased with ACA results to date, but says there's



VICARIATE CHAIRS—Roxanne and Jason Melaragno of Fairfield

still more work to do to reach the \$11 million goal for the appeal, which funds the major programs and ministries of the diocese.

He is awaiting results from the

recent in-pew weekend and hopes they will provide a final surge before the active phase of the campaign closes at the end of June. However, people will have the opportunity to give over the summer and through the end of the year

"Giving now sends a strong signal of support for the direction the diocese is taking and the good work it does for people of all faiths throughout Fairfield County," McLean said.

He is encouraged by the fact that more parishes have reached their goals than last year at this time.

McLean says the average gift to the Appeal is over \$500, making donors among the most generous in the U.S., but he is concerned about the number of people who gave last year but have not yet renewed their gift.

To date, more than 18,000 people have made a pledge, but McLean would like to expand the



ACA CHAIRCOUPLES—Chairs Steve and Elena Schlegel of New Canaan; vice chairs Conrad and Carol Calandra of Shelton

base of giving. He believes that many people on fixed incomes and younger couples are still feeling the lingering effects of the past recession as they struggle to pay taxes, school tuitions and other expenses. He wants them to know that even a small gift can make a difference.

"It's really important that everyone make a gift. My message is give whatever you can. Every donation matters," he said.

One very encouraging sign is the number of young people who are stepping up to take leadership in the campaign. McLean said they have given a very youthful stamp to the appeal and represent the next

generation coming forward.

A new series of parish receptions also holds the key to introducing more people to the Annual Catholic Appeal and engaging young people in leadership. "We recently visited two very successful parish receptions, one at St. Aloysius in New Canaan, and the other at St. John's in Darien. We're very grateful for the pastors, Father Robert Kinnally and Father Francis Hoffman for their leadership."

McLean is also grateful for the guidance of the Priest Advisory Council (PAC) led by Msgr. Laurence Bronkiewicz as chair and Father Reginald Norman,

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



NOW IS THE TIME TO GIVE!

**ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL GOAL: \$11 MILLION
RAISED TO DATE: OVER \$10 MILLION**

MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY!

Your gift, as with every sacrificial gift,
is much needed and is greatly appreciated!
It ensures that the faith of the Church is lived out in our homes,
our parishes and our communities every day.
Pope Francis once tweeted, "Practicing charity is the best way to evangelize."

For more information please email:
2017ACA@diobpt.org

Make Your Gift Online Today
www.2017ACAbridgeport.com
Call **203-416-1470**
or Text **SHARING** to **50555**





Catholic Academy of Bridgeport

Golf Classic scores big for students

By **SUSAN CECERE**

The Catholic Academy of Bridgeport welcomed 100 supporters and alum to its Fifth Annual Golf Classic, raising more than \$200,000 for much-needed scholarships.

The 18-hole, shotgun competition, held May 18 at the Country Club of Fairfield, featured putting and course contests, a delicious barbeque lunch and terrific player gifts. Following golf, guests enjoyed a cocktail reception along with the live and silent auctioning of sporting events, fine restaurants, golf foursomes and one-of-a-kind travel experiences by brothers and auctioneers Dave and Steve Sylvestro, who brought much fun and energy to the evening.

Also on hand were academy students who mingled and greeted guests, as well as current Fairfield Prep freshman and



CATHEDRAL CLASSIC—Kevin Indiveri receives high fives for a winning putt. From left: Andrew Schulz, Indiveri, and Chris Scyocurka.

Catholic Academy alum José Dataram, who spoke passionately about the strong academic and faith foundations he received while at the academy. Dataram expressed his deep gratitude to all those donors present who enabled him and his six siblings to get the gift of a lifetime—an education.

During “paddles up,” more than one dozen students were sponsored through the Leaders of Tomorrow program, which pairs donors with students for whom they will pay toward their tuition.

“It was a magnificent day,” said Sister Joan Magnetti, rscj, executive director of the Catholic

Academy. “We had perfect weather, great golf, terrific camaraderie and much good will. Because of the generosity of several board members, the entire event was underwritten, and every dollar raised went to our academy.”

This year the event had eight sponsors, and welcomed American Transit Insurance Company as a new sponsor.

Sponsoring partners included:

Silver Sponsors: American Transit Insurance Company, and Frank Sica

Bronze Sponsors: Day Pitney LLP, and James Read/MML Capital Partners

Hole Sponsor: Jim Moye/Morgan Stanley

Cart Sponsors: Blakes School Uniform Company, and Dan McAuliffe

Hole-in-One Sponsor: BMW of Bridgeport

Winning foursomes included:

Low Gross: Bob Patchen, Bill Fitzpatrick, Cob Carlson and Kevin Leary

Low Net: Randy Johnson, Syd Gordon, Dan McAuliffe and Chuck Bauer

Longest Drive: Lou Taylor
Putting Contest: Kevin Indiveri

The Catholic Academy of Bridgeport is tasked each year in raising \$2 million for scholarships. The Golf Classic is one of the academy’s three major fundraisers of each year. Other annual events include a spring ladies luncheon and a fall dinner. The academy educates 920 elementary school boys and girls on four Bridgeport campuses: St. Ann, St. Andrew, St. Augustine and St. Raphael. Average tuitions are \$4,900 and 85 percent of enrolled families require financial assistance.

(For more information or to make a donation, go to catholicacademy-bridgeport.org or call 203.362.2990.) ■



Foundations in Education

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED MAKE THE 2017 FOUNDATIONS IN EDUCATION GALA A HUGE SUCCESS!

YOUR GENEROSITY RAISED \$800,000 FOR THE BISHOP’S SCHOLARSHIP FUND AND IMPACTS THE LIVES OF HUNDREDS AND HUNDREDS OF CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS ACROSS FAIRFIELD COUNTY.



Proceeds from the gala benefit Bishop’s Scholarship Fund and will help students with a demonstrated financial need attend Diocese of Bridgeport Catholic elementary schools.

To learn more about Foundations in Education, please contact Holly Doherty-Lemoine at hlemoine@diobpt.org.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:

CHAIRMAN

Paula and Tom McInerney

BENEFACTOR

Board of Trustees, Foundations in Education
Parsons and Whittemore/George Landegger

CHAMPION

Jody and John Myers
Barbara and Peter Ripp
St. Thomas More Church

PATRON

Judy and Jim Bailey
Catholic Academy of Bridgeport
R. Bradford Evans
Frontier Communications and Dan McCarthy
Dian Jennings Mayo
Venman & Co LLC, James Woods and Janet Barillari

CORPORATE

Bank of America/Merrill Lynch/U.S. Trust
Day Pitney
Susan and Frank Carroll, III
Jane and Jack Heffernan
Rebecca and Michael Shea

Fairfield University

75th commencement honors first graduates

FAIRFIELD—During Fairfield University's 67th commencement exercises on May 21, the class of 1951—the university's very first class—was honored as part of the University's ongoing 75th anniversary celebrations.

The nine men representing their class—many veterans of the World War II—donned their robes and sashes to watch as the class of 2017 received their degrees. Among those members of the first class present was Raymond Longden, JD, a member of the class of 1951, recognized by the Guinness World Book of Records as having "Refereed more football games than any other referee in America," for officiating well over 2,000 games spanning all levels of the sport, including professional, college, prep school, high school and Pop Warner.

Longden's advice to the Class of 2017: "Now you have the tools to achieve your goals, it's up to you to use those tools and develop vital drive. You have to have vital drive to succeed in today's world, so whatever your

mission is, whatever you're called for, develop the drive to do it. Persevere, persevere, persevere."

Nearly 10,000 people joined in celebrating the class of 2017 when the Jesuit University awarded 934 bachelor's degrees, 393 master's degrees, 28 6th year certificates and 36 doctorates. Fairfield's interim president, Lynn Babington, PhD, RN, presided over the day's events.

The undergraduate speaker, University President Emeritus Father Jeffrey P. von Arx, SJ, spoke to the graduates on the importance of conviction and discernment. "As you look around you, I'm sure you realize how hard it is for people your age, or any age, to develop values to live by," he said. "It takes not only courage but also informed conviction to stand for contrary values of human dignity and human solidarity, and it is this informed conviction that we hope we have helped you to develop here at Fairfield."

During the undergraduate ceremony, an honorary Doctor of Laws degree was given to Father Sean Carroll, SJ, who is

the founding executive director of the Kino Border Initiative (KBI), which started in 2009 to serve migrants that travel between Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Sonora, Mexico. In 2015, the KBI provided nearly 43,000 meals, shelter for 482 migrants, and medical assistance for over 3,500 sick and injured persons.

Dianne Dwyer Modestini, an internationally renowned conservator of Old Master and 19th century paintings, was given an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree; and a honorary Doctor of Laws degree was given to Stephen Braga, '78, who was named one of the "Top Ten Criminal Defense Attorneys in the United States" by U.S. Lawyer Rankings and who, along with his wife, Kathy, runs a law firm dedicated to serving, primarily, the underserved and underrepresented within the legal system.

Later Sunday afternoon, the graduate ceremony speaker Juanita James, the president and CEO of Fairfield County's Community Foundation, spoke of the importance of service to



others. "All of you have the power to transform our society for the better," said James. "Nurture your personal relationships—friends, family, loved ones—and don't forget yourself. It's as important to you to pay attention to your own physical, spiritual, and mental wellbeing as it is to take care of others."

Also at the graduate ceremony, Sister Patricia Eck, CBS, received an honorary Doctor of Science degree. As congregation leader of the Sisters of Bon Secours, she is responsible

for ministries in France, Great Britain, Ireland, Peru, Africa, and the United States. In 2011, she received the Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice (the Cross for the Church and Pontiff), the highest honor given to a member of a religious community by the Vatican.

As Dr. Babington said, speaking of the leap of faith Fairfield University founders took in 1942, "Every year, every class, every new program, and each and every student represent a leap of faith. And that is how it should be." ■

St. Vincent's celebrates 25th commencement

BRIDGEPORT—St. Vincent's College recognized 190 graduates at a ceremony held on May 19 at the University of Bridgeport's Arnold Bernhard Arts & Humanities Center.

The graduates completed coursework in their respective area of the college, and will be recognized with a certificate, diploma, associate's or bachelor's degree in the areas of nursing, radiography or general studies.

This year's commencement address was given by Debra Greenwood, president and CEO of the Center for Family Justice. Greenwood received her B.S. in business administration from Sacred Heart University and her master's in exercise physiology from Southern Connecticut State University, with additional certificates from other institutions. Over the course of her



35-year career, she has showcased her natural talent for leadership by leading two YMCAs as chief executive, and spearheading successful capitol campaigns that resulted in the founding and opening of a new YMCA.

Greenwood has spent the last 10 years of her life helping restore hope to the lives of women, children and men who have been impacted by domestic and sexual abuse through her role with the Center for Family Justice.

For over 100 years, until their departure in 2014, the Daughters of Charity have serviced St. Vincent's Medical Center and College in their mission to care for the poor and sick. The Daughters have stayed loyal to the mission and the institutions throughout the years, at one point dissuading the Medical Center from leaving Bridgeport to move to a suburban area in the neighbor town of Fairfield. Because of this dedication, St. Vincent's honored Sister Marie Burns, Sister Anne Marie Graham and Sister Mary Jean Tague with honorary Doctorates of Humane Letters.

At the ceremony, St. Vincent's honored Judy Ruggiri with the "Distinguished Excellence in

Teaching and Service Award." This award is given to an individual who has demonstrated excellence as an educator through a record of outstanding teaching effectiveness, both within and outside the classroom and the ability to inspire, promote and sustain intellectual development. Ruggiri joined the St. Vincent's team in 2013 after previous careers as a registered nurse and in business administration.

Megan Halloran and Emma Alamo were honored by St. Vincent's College as this year's student speakers. Halloran, a radiography student, will be receiving her associate of science degree in radiography and plans to continue her education and earn her BSRS. Alamo, a nursing student, will be receiving her associate of science in nursing and plans to continue her bright career into the future. ■

Parish News

Celebrating Our Lady of Fatima

WILTON—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano joined Father Reggie Norman, pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Wilton, to lead the 100th anniversary celebration



100th ANNIVERSARY OF FATIMA – Children from the Wilton parish re-enacted the scene of the miracle.

in Fatima, Portugal, when three shepherd children reported seeing a vision of the Virgin Mary, who urged them to pray the Rosary daily for world peace.

During his homily, the bishop told parishioners about his mother's pilgrimage to Fatima just months before she died in 2011.

"Our Lady reminds us that there is no greater good than the eternal; there is no greater good than to be with her son in this life and in the life to come," Bishop Caggiano said. "She reminded the visionaries, and she reminds us, that we must pray each day for the strength and courage to remain faithful to what the Lord has asked."

After Mass, state Senator Toni Boucher, R-Wilton, and Selectman Lori Bufano presented the parish with an official state citation recognizing the 100th anniversary.

"Our Lady of Fatima Church has provided moral and spiritual guidance to the Wilton community and beyond," Senator Boucher said. "Congratulations on this celebration of Our Lady's presence and maternal protection for

the last 100 years."

Father Norman presented Bishop Caggiano with a Lady of Fatima vestment and a commemorative 100th anniversary plate. He also presented the bishop with the first annual "The Most Reverend Frank Caggiano Award" for outstanding service to the parish.

Bishop Caggiano responded by expressing his own thanks for Father Norman's service to the parish.

"Father Reggie, you are such an outstanding, remarkable priest and a great pastor," he said.

"And I want to say, on the feast day in this parish, and on behalf of everyone here, thank you for your leadership, your dedication, all that you do and the love that you have in your heart."

Father Norman also presented an award to parishioners Phil Lauria and Elaine Tai-Lauria for their service to the parish.

Our Lady of Fatima was founded in 1953, just months after the Diocese of Bridgeport

was formed. It was originally a mission of St. Mary Parish in Norwalk, but during World War II, when gas rationing made travelling more difficult, Mass was made available in Wilton by a priest sent from St. Mary's. These Masses were held at the

American Legion Hall in Wilton Center. The parish now numbers 1,700 families.

(Our Lady of Fatima Church is located at 229 Danbury Road, Wilton. For more information on the parish, visit www.olfwilton.org or call 203.762.3928.)

of the miracles at Fatima.

Children from the parish re-enacted the scene of the miracle that occurred on May 13, 1917,

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for June 25, 2017

Matthew 10:26-33

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A: What to fear and what not to fear. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

BE KNOWN	WHAT I SAY	DARK
WHISPERED	PROCLAIM	HOUSETOPS
CANNOT	KILL	THE SOUL
DESTROY	SPARROWS	NOT ONE
FALLS	HAIRS	AFRAID
EVERYONE	BEFORE	OTHERS
FATHER	DENIES ME	DENY

WHAT TO FEAR

E N O T O N R E H T A F
 N W O N K E B D K R A D
 O T H E R S J O I L L E
 Y M C A N N O T L A R R
 R I H K T J H S L O E E
 E A O W K I W D F O M P
 V L L L U O S E H T S S
 E C C H R O B A M B E I
 I O S R I A H J Y U I H
 P R A F R A I D E N N W
 S P O T E S U O H A E A
 S N A N Y O R T S E D D

© 2017 Tri-C-A Publications www.tri-c-a-publications.com

This Scripture Puzzle is sponsored by:

ProximoTravel

Pilgrimages for Catholics and people of all faiths

Prices starting at \$2,499 ~ with Airfare Included in this price from anywhere in the USA

Several trips to different destinations: the Holy Land; Italy; France, Portugal, & Spain; Poland; Medjugorje, Lourdes, & Fatima; Ireland & Scotland; England; Austria, Germany, & Switzerland; Greece & Turkey; El Camino de Santiago; Budapest; Prague; Our Lady of Guadalupe; Colombia; Brazil; Argentina; Domestic Destinations; etc...

We also specialize in custom trips for Bishops, Priests, and Deacons.

Call us 24/7
Hablamos Espanol

855-842-8001
508-340-9370

www.proximotravel.com
anthony@proximotravel.com



THE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Encounter • Formation • Discipleship

2017-2018 @ The Institute
September 22, 2017

Celebration and In-Service for Parish Administrative Staff (Mike Patin, presenter) Catholic Center, 9 am
Pilgrimage to Washington, DC for close of local elements of thefaceofprayer campaign

September 23, 2017

Evening for Married Couples (Chris Padgett, presenter) workshops/light dinner

September 29, 2017

September 30, 2017

Diocesan Formation Day – "People of Joy" (Bishop Caggiano, keynote) workshops/exhibitors
Launch of Institute Online Courses

October 11, 2017

Bishop's Lecture Series – Inaugural event featuring Sr. Miriam Heidland, SOLT – *Encountering Jesus*

January 27, 2018

Diocesan Formation Day – "Connecting the Dots" (multiple workshops about connecting one ministry to the other and all ministries to the parish)

Lent 2018

Lenten Book Series

April 11, 2018

Bishop's Lecture Series featuring Bishop Robert Morneau – *Discipleship through Prayer*

Coming this year: Implementation of formation for Lectors and Special Ministers of Holy Communion
Monthly webinars for parents
Leadership 360 (Once a month webinar for ministry leaders from around the world)
Online resources to implement Catechetical Task Force recommendations
Formation day for those who work with our senior parishioners

Kolbe Cathedral High School

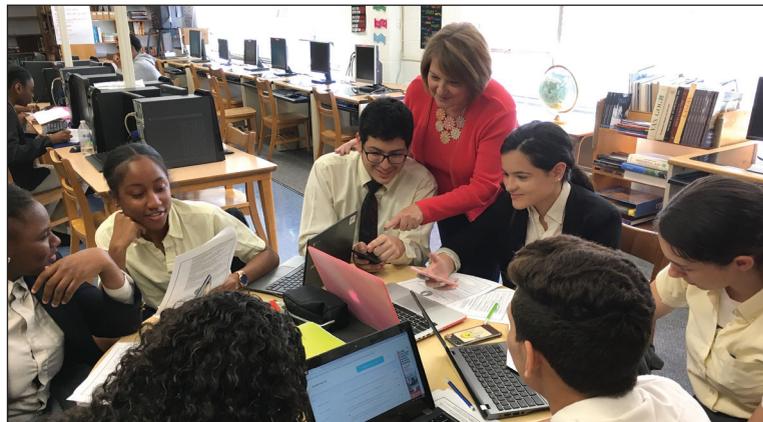
Jo-Anne Jakab says farewell to Kolbe

By PAT HENNESSY

After 43 years of service to the Kolbe Cathedral High School community, Principal Jo-Anne Jakab will retire on June 30.

The Daughters of the Holy Spirit still staffed Cathedral Girls' High School in Bridgeport when a young, newly-married Jakab arrived as a health and physical education teacher. In those first years, she and her husband Gary, who is also a teacher, co-coached the girls' basketball team. Jakab had been at Cathedral High for two years when it merged with Kolbe Boys' High School in 1976 to become Kolbe-Cathedral.

"I have gotten to know thousands of wonderful young people, witnessing their growth and development and celebrating their successes," she says. "The only way I could have been here



VISITING AN AP HONORS CLASS, Principal Jo-Anne Jakab demonstrates her encouragement of each individual student, a hallmark of her 43 years of service at Kolbe Cathedral High School.

for that many years is to see how kids' lives are changed by their experience at Kolbe."

Over the years, Jakab has served as athletic director, development director, principal and president. She's proud to point

out that the school has earned a strong reputation as an educational force in the City of Bridgeport, sending 100 percent of graduates to college. This year's graduates have already been accepted at prestigious universities like Cornell, Wesleyan and Fairfield.

A Bridgeport native herself, Jakab is pleased that Kolbe Cathedral has continued for over 50 years in its mission to provide a quality education to the changing population of the city. "It always reflects the population of Bridgeport, from the Italians, Portuguese and Eastern Europeans of its early years to the Hispanic, Brazilians, Vietnamese and Haitians of today," she notes. "It's a great story. Hardworking, devout families who want the best for their kids send them

here. We have high expectations for their success—in education, in community leadership and in their experience of faith."

"Jo-Anne has ensured that thousands of girls and boys in Bridgeport have had an opportunity to receive a quality high school education," says John McClutchy, Jr., founder and managing member of JHM Financial Group, who is on Kolbe's Advisory Board.

"As each of these young women and men progress throughout their lives they become the living legacy she has created. She has set the 'Gold Standard' for Catholic education"

As Jakab responded to educational changes over the years, Kolbe has added challenging offerings like engineering, biomedical science and entrepreneurship. It has a course in CSP mobile apps, and offers AP courses in U.S. history and English. In its engineering lab, students can learn to program a 3K-D printer.

This fall, the school will offer a social studies course that carries UCONN credit. It hosted the pilot program for Shepherds, Inc., which provides tuition assistance and mentors for inner-city students. Other programs will allow students to finish one complete year of college, and experience career possibilities in health care, business and industry before graduation from high school.

The religion curriculum at Kolbe grounds students in Catholic Social Teaching, encouraging them to use their talents in a variety of situations: visiting senior citizens, tutoring in after-school programs, or working with clients at the Kennedy Center.

"They not only are involved in outreach, they bring that back to the classroom for discussion and reflection," Jakab says.

"Jo-Anne has demonstrated how the application of the principles of Catholic Social Teaching leads to outstanding results," says Advisory Board member Bill Fox, who is president of the Fairfield County Chapter of Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice (CAPP).

Kolbe is enriched by students' journeys in faith. "I have witnessed baptisms and confirmations and embraced students' transformation as they accept the Lord God in their lives," Jakab says. "I have been greatly blessed in this mission of Catholic education at Kolbe Cathedral."

Although she is retiring to Florida, Jakab will continue to serve Kolbe Cathedral High School as a member of the Board of Advisors to increase scholarships for deserving students and grant opportunities to expand programs at the school.

"While this will be my final graduation, I will continue to live our Kolbe motto: 'Work hard and be nice!'"



TO OUR FAMILIES,
**Monuments
and Markers**
ARE AVAILABLE
FOR PURCHASE
THROUGH ANY OF OUR
**CATHOLIC CEMETERY
OFFICES.**

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT
OR VISIT US.



WE CAN GIVE YOU A FREE
ESTIMATE ON ADDING AN INSCRIPTION
TO YOUR EXISTING FAMILY MONUMENT.

Catholic Cemeteries Diocese of Bridgeport
Administrative Office, Catholic Center
238 Jewett Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06606

CEMETERY OFFICES

BRIDGEPORT-STRAITFORD

St. Michael Cemetery
2205 Stratford Avenue
Stratford, CT 06615
(203) 378-0404

DANBURY

St. Peter Cemetery
71 Lake Avenue Extension
Danbury, CT 06810
(203) 743-9626

DARIEN

St. John Cemetery
25 Camp Avenue
Darien, CT 06820
(203) 322-0455

GREENWICH

St. Mary - Putnam Cemetery
399 North Street
Greenwich, CT 06830
(203) 869-4828
(203) 869-7026

NEWTOWN

Resurrection Cemetery
c/o Gate of Heaven Cemetery
1056 Daniels Farm Road
Trumbull, CT 06611
(203) 268-5574

NORWALK

St. John - St. Mary Cemetery
223 Richards Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06850
(203) 838-4271

STAMFORD

Queen of Peace Cemetery
c/o St. John Cemetery
25 Camp Avenue
Darien, CT 06820
(203) 322-0455

TRUMBULL

Gate of Heaven Cemetery
1056 Daniels Farm Road
Trumbull, CT 06611
(203) 268-5574

WESTPORT

Assumption, Greens Farms
Assumption, Kings Highway
c/o St. John Cemetery
223 Richards Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06850
(203) 838-4271

Sarah's ER project

BRIDGEPORT—Sarah Maynard, a member of St. Pius X Parish in Fairfield, is already incorporating the principles of affecting change into her life at the tender age of 12, as evidenced by the project she came up with to help children who come to St. Vincent's Emergency Room. Remembering a time when she had to visit a local ER and felt bored and worried, the seventh grade student at Fairfield Woods Middle School came up with a project for her health class that would help occupy children's minds while they spent those anxious moments waiting to be seen in the Emergency Department.

Sarah collected little toys, coloring books, puzzles and other types of books from classmates, friends and family members to create "Activity Bags" to be distributed to children who visit the ER. She even customized the bags for girls and boys and different age groups.

The creative assignment from Sarah's health class teacher Tina Bengermine had called for a project based on Steven Covey's *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*—and based on the reaction of St. Vincent's staff and the first young patient to receive one of the bags, Sarah's project was highly effective. Her willingness



to share her experience and use her problem-solving skills and initiative to devise a solution that will benefit so many children could be a Covey case study! But Sarah says her motivation also came from a very simple philosophy, "I just want people to be happy."

Thank you, Sarah, for a very creative idea and a willingness to help others!

Notre Dame High School

'The shoulders of giants'

By PAT HENNESSY

"I'm leaving, but I'm not leaving," said Father Bill Sangiovanni, president of Notre Dame High School in Fairfield. "The bishop told me to stay close and do whatever I wanted to do.

I've always loved it here, so I'll be back to give lectures and take part in activities."

Father Bill first came to Notre Dame as a history teacher in 1980.

He became principal in 1994 and president in 2010. Now he and Vice Principal Carl Philipp, who came to

Notre Dame as a foreign language teacher in 1965, are both retiring. Philipp had also gone to Notre Dame as a high school student, graduating in 1961. He has served as assistant principal at Notre Dame for more than three decades.

The two men between them capture the history and the legacy of Notre Dame.

"Talk about 'on the shoulders of giants' ... Father Bill and Carl are two of the giants in Notre

Dame's history, having given a combined total of ninety years of service to our school and our students," said Principal Chris Cipriano. "They have both left a tremendous impact upon Notre Dame, and their legacies will certainly carry on. Their con-

tributions are too numerous to list, but they leave a community extremely grateful for their support of ND and Catholic education."

"I really enjoy working with Chris," said Father Bill. "I keep reminding him that I hired him!" Principal Cipriano is building his own legacy since

being brought to Notre Dame as a social studies teacher by Father Sangiovanni in 1998.

"Carl was already here when I came, and he has been integral to the operation of the school," Father Bill continued. "He worked with Principal Armand Fabbri before I came, and he's always there to help with the students and the alums. So many of them remember him from their school days!"

During those years, a lot has changed. But the core of Notre Dame, in its students and in its school spirit, has remained constant.

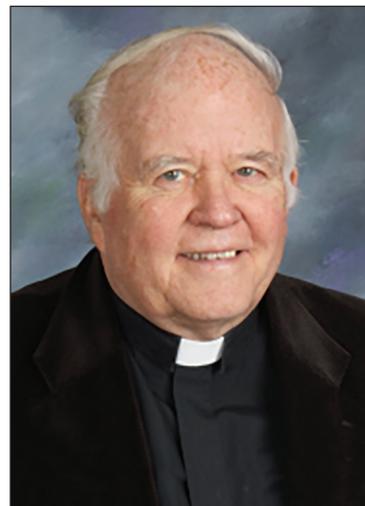
"Over time, we've introduced a lot of new subjects, mostly in science and math—and our music program has grown richer, too," said Father Bill. "But most importantly, then and now, the people who worked here really liked the school—and the kids liked it, too. There are tons of activities for them and great sports teams and a musical every spring. I've never seen a play like the one they did this year, *Les Miserables*. It was phenomenal."

He points with pride to the achievements of the past several decades at Notre Dame, most recently the close connection with nearby Sacred Heart University. Not only do qualified Notre Dame graduates get a discounted tuition at SHU,

students can take classes at the university while still in high school, and they have use of the Ryan Matura Library. "By the time they graduate high school, they can have accumulated a lot of college credits," Father Sangiovanni points out.

While top scholars can take advantage of these offerings, all students get the assistance they need at Notre Dame. "You get to know the kids pretty well," says Father Sangiovanni. "If some student isn't doing well, we take that kid on and work with them. All the teachers and staff are happy to do that for the kids. We have great people here."

Another hallmark of Notre Dame's spirit shows in the students' yearly 26 Acts of Kindness Campaign, which they began as a way to honor the students and educators killed at Sandy Hook



FATHER BILL SANGIOVANNI



CARL PHILIPP

School in Newtown. The school's Annual Day of Service falls at the end of the school's Acts of Kindness Campaign.

"Everyone here works together, and we work hard. I've always loved that about Notre Dame. We laugh a lot, too. I remember the years when we put on the GarlicFest—that was so much

fun. People still ask when we're going to bring it back!"

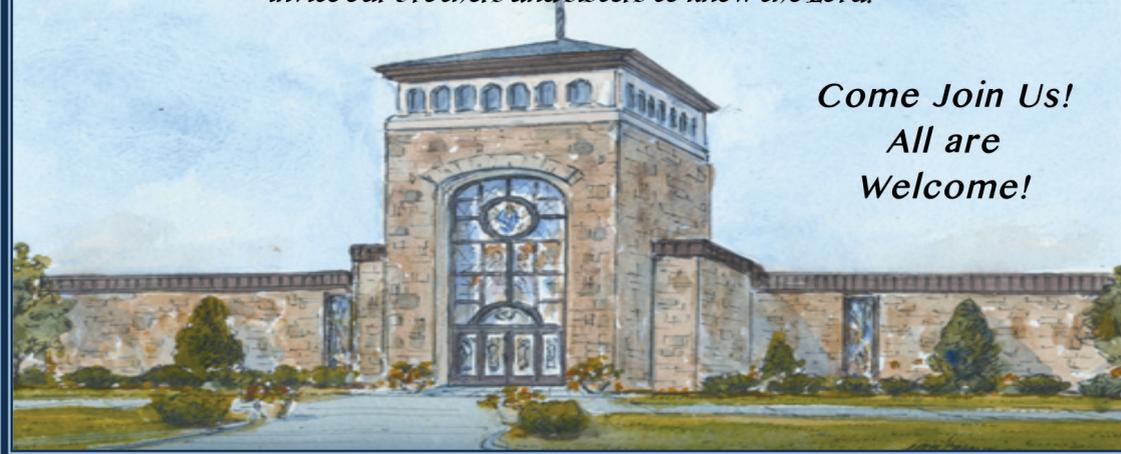
That spirit is a constant that has infused Notre Dame over the years. "There's a spirit of fun here. People are always coming up with new ideas and working to put them together. There's an energy to the school. That is sure to continue." ■



St. Aloysius Roman Catholic Church

21 Cherry Street in New Canaan

We are a community of believers in Jesus Christ striving to proclaim the Gospel in word and in deed. Through worship, evangelization, formation and service we invite our brothers and sisters to know the Lord.



Come Join Us!
All are
Welcome!

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday Vigil for Sunday 5:30 pm

Sunday 7:00 am, 8:30 am, 10:00 am Family Mass with Youth Choir

11:30 am Choir Mass with Adult Choir

5:00 pm Teen Mass with Vibrant Youth Music

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday/Wednesday/Friday 7 am, 9 am, 5:30 pm

Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday 7:00 am & 5:30 pm



Like and follow the parish on Facebook, Instagram & Twitter at **StAloysiusParishNC!**

Regency Limousine Inc.



Door to Door
24 Hours a day

All Airports, Piers, & Theatres
New York City -
Corporate Accounts
Wedding & Special Occasions
Chauffeured Lincoln
Limousines
& Regency Town Car Sedans

Anytime, Anywhere
1-800-243-5606

www.regencylimousine.com

Licensed by CT D.O.T.

Thomas Merton Center

Sister Amanda creates a whole meal experience

By ANNA JONES

Breakfast is still being served at the Thomas Merton Center, but Sister Amanda Carrier, RSM, already has her mind on lunch.

On a Tuesday morning in early May, she stood mixing a homemade dressing for a pasta salad that would have a zesty lemon flavor while she thought about what she would do with the chicken in the refrigerator. Although a client picking up his breakfast that morning had called back requesting lasagna, Sister Mandy had to use what was available to her.

"I just look around and say, 'That's what it looks like today,'" Sister Mandy said.

It's one of the perks of her job as a chef at the Thomas Merton Center—every day the menu is completely different. While she orders the meats that she cooks with, most of the rest of the food comes from donations, and she never quite knows what she's going to get.

Volunteers are around helping all the time, "and they make some of the best pancakes you could ask for," Sister Mandy said.

Sister Mandy, 31, doesn't have dreams of owning her own restaurant. The late hours and same old same old every day do not appeal to her, she said.

Instead, she helps prepare more than 100 breakfasts and more than 200 lunches five days a week, and aside from the creativity perks, she gets to serve a vulnerable population in her

community. After all, that's one of the many reasons why she became a Sister of Mercy. In addition to the three traditional vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, Sisters of Mercy take an additional vow to serve their community in their vocations.

"I get to introduce people to a whole new world of healthy eating," she said. "This is about creating a whole meal experience."

"And you get to know all sorts of fun people," she added.

Especially working at the Thomas Merton Center, a place that used to be a church, her service to the homeless in the Bridgeport area takes on another

level of meaning.

"I love that this used to be a church and this used to be the altar," Sister Mandy said as she chopped vegetables for her pasta salad on a metal counter in a place where, presumably, the altar used to be.

Outside of the kitchen, she finds other ways to serve her more immediate community of fellow Sisters or those discerning the religious life. She keeps a regular blog, "Nun with a side of pirate," to chronicle her adventures on a countercultural path.

"Most people don't know any Sisters anymore," she said, adding that the average age of Sisters



"I JUST LOOK AROUND AND SAY, 'That's what it looks like today,'" said Sister Mandy, preparing a homemade dressing for pasta salad. It's one of the perks of her job as a chef at the Thomas Merton Center that most of the food comes from donations and she never quite knows what she's going to get.

is now in the 70s. "I wanted to write something that would've been helpful to me when I was just thinking about religious life."

In her blog, Sister Mandy describes her journey to the Sisters of Mercy as a long one, one that didn't have an exact "aha" moment she can put her finger on. Instead, it was a gradual

process, in which God helped her to remain open to the possibility, even when she grew up thinking she would one day be married.

At the end of the day, she felt like she belonged in the community, she said. "You get to know Sisters as real people and you start to say, 'Hey, I could do this too.'" ■

Merton Celebrity Breakfast a success

BRIDGEPORT—Over 230 people turned out for the Thomas Merton Center's 23rd Annual Celebrity Breakfast on May 24 at the Holiday Inn in Bridgeport, raising approximately \$140,000 for the center.

"We're thrilled with the tremendous show of support we saw at this year's breakfast," said Al Barber, president of Catholic Charities.

Keynote Speaker Paul Miller captivated the crowd with a personal and humorous account of his upbringing in Bridgeport and the close connection he feels to the people of this city. A successful business man, Miller conveyed that

he has a deep gratitude for all the resources he car dealership has made available to him. This, he said, was a motivation to help those in need. Due to his affection for Bridgeport, he saw the Thomas Merton Center as a wonderful organization to contribute to, given the incredible work it does for the hungry and homeless in the community.

Miller also spoke of meeting Norma Pfriem. After being asked to become a trustee of the foundation in her name, he became very aware of the spectrum of needs across the Bridgeport area. But he told the crowd that the Thomas Merton Center, and the people it serves, touched his heart

the most. Miller's actions have accomplished much to ensure the continued work of the Thomas Merton Center.

As a surprise to him and an expression of appreciation of his personal generosity and his leadership of the Norma Pfriem Foundation, the Thomas Merton Center presented Miller with its highest award of service. In addition, an award



KEYNOTE SPEAKER—Business leader Paul Miller puts a high value on charitable service.

in recognition of the Norma F. Pfriem Foundation will be hung inside the center. ■

WORLD WAR I

BEYOND THE FRONT LINES

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
MUSEUM

April 6, 2017-
Dec. 30, 2018

1 State Street, New Haven • 203-865-0400 • kofcmuseum.org • Free admission & parking



The Great Mission, Danbury

Announce Jesus in the public squares

DANBURY—The sun struggles to break through the ominous clouds on a dark Sunday afternoon as a six-foot icon with the face of Jesus on it is being hoisted up on a wooden frame in Elmwood Park on Main Street in Danbury. Drops of rain sprinkle down on the two dozen folding chairs arranged in the center of the park around the icon, a lectern, and a crucifix.

Suddenly, a choir of voices is heard coming down State Street singing “Alleluia,” along with drums, tambourines, and guitars.

The group is being led by Jan Pietryga, a Polish seminarian who studies for the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., and David Rak, along with his wife, Michelle, and their five children, a Catholic missionary family from Illinois. The voices of children, young adults, and adults grow louder as they approach the park

and assemble in the damp chairs.

The group of 40 to 50 that has gathered is comprised of some members of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Danbury, others from around the area who had been invited to this Great Mission, and also members of the Neocatechumenal Way from around the diocese and from the Norwich diocese.

This Great Mission is a direct answer to the call of Pope Francis to “invite everybody to bring the Good News in every environment of life. Go into the squares and announce Jesus Christ, our Savior!” These Great Missions are being coordinated with the communities of the Neocatechumenal Way in tens of thousands of public squares and parks throughout the world.

The Neocatechumenal Way is a charism of adult faith formation within the Catholic

Church. They have been sent by the last five Popes (beginning with Blessed Pope Paul VI) to go out and re-evangelize the baptized—the far away, the strayed, and even the faithful whose faith has waned. Stephen and Neidy Hanley, members of the Neocatechumenal community of Sacred Heart Parish said, “Since we began walking in the Way we have come to a better understanding of what St. Paul writes in Corinthians, that is, ‘I walk by faith, not by sight.’”

The Neocatechumenal Way has been active in the diocese of Bridgeport for over 40 years. Communities are currently active in St. Charles Borromeo Parish and St. Margaret Shrine in Bridgeport, Sacred Heart and St. Mary parishes in Stamford, and at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Danbury.

Father Peter Towsley, pastor of Sacred Heart in Danbury, begins

the mission with a prayer, “We walk with the Lord, and with St. Peter, and with the disciples on the road to Emmaus. We take his message wherever we are sent.”

After Psalms from evening Vespers are recited, and a few songs are sung, two young women from the diocese of Norwich get up individually and speak about how they came to know the love of God for them through the sufferings, temptations, and failures of youth and young adulthood. They speak about how, through a small community of faith along with others like them, they discovered the deep and merciful love of God.

Afterward, David Rak offers a word of hope related to the blind man in John’s Gospel, that perhaps we’re not looking for God in our lives, but that he wants to enter the daily reality we’re living, to help us grow in faith.



THROUGH SONG AND PRAYER, this Great Mission took the Good News of Jesus to Main Street in Danbury.

As the rain ends and the sun begins to peak out from the clouds, Father Towsley closes the mission with a prayer. The musicians once more begin to sing, “Alleluia,” as a large circle of children, youth and adults forms around them, singing and dancing in the pockets of sunshine. ■

PILGRIMAGE TO THE BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION IN WASHINGTON DC

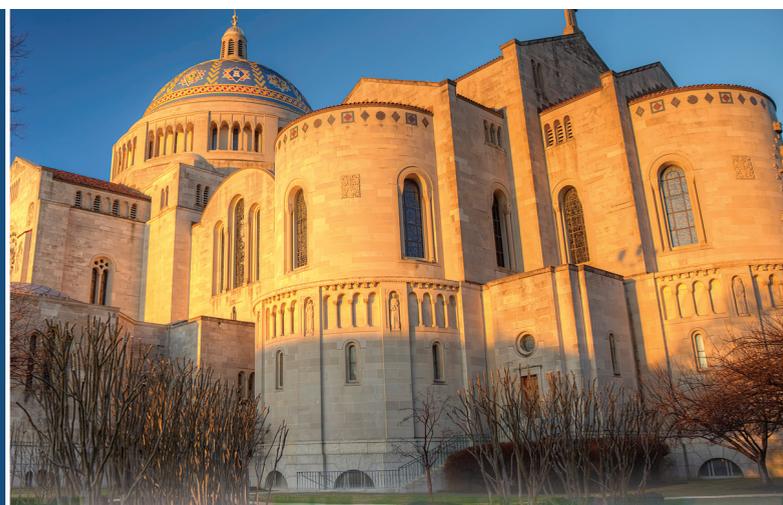
September 23, 2017

An Invitation from Bishop Frank Caggiano

One hundred years ago, Our Lady appeared to three young people in Fatima, Portugal asking them to pray. For several weeks, I have been inviting you to pray with me as part of *The Face of Prayer* campaign. I now invite you to join me for a pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, where we will dedicate a shrine to her honor in the name of all young people.

All are welcome to join me on this special day. Mass will be celebrated in the Basilica at 2 PM, followed by a procession and the dedication.

Buses will depart early in the morning from Stamford, Bridgeport and Monroe.



For more information and to register please visit
www.thefaceofprayer.com



The Face of Prayer

EDITORIAL

Present and Future

It is often said that our youth are the future. That's not entirely true. As the students and activities featured in our education section prove, these young men and women are very much the present of our Church and our communities.

A fifth grader who gathers diapers for a pregnant mother is changing that mom's world now. Kindergartners who send bright cards and candy to military personnel lighten their burden today. High school students not only teach religious education in their home parishes, they serve as peer tutors in their schools and work with special education students and in the Special Olympics—and they have been voting delegates to the Fourth Diocesan Synod. They are changing the face of the Church this minute. Through their science experiments, young scientists research ways to improve our environment, from solar cells to clean water. Some of their research from previous years is already in place, improving the world we live in. Our youth are the future—and the present. Make room for them.

Summer 'to do' list

Before heading out on vacation this summer, we ask you to consider this simple "To Do" list that will help ensure your summer is prayerful and charitable:

Give to the Annual Catholic Appeal—If you haven't made a pledge yet, you can use the envelope in this issue or go online: www.2017ACA-bridgeport.com. If you're in a hurry you might even want to try to new text to give feature: Text sharing to 50555. The ACA feeds the hungry and houses the homeless, educates our children and seminarians, provides for retired priests and funds countless works of service throughout the diocese. Please join those who have already given!

Become "The Face of Prayer"—Bishop Frank Caggiano invites you to be the face of prayer by texting your picture, a prayer intention, or the word "prayer" to 55778 (Privacy protections are in place.) Participants will receive a prayer from Bishop Frank either every day or three times a week [your choice] as well as a weekly video from the bishop, access to great resources online and the opportunity to pray together with friends from all around the Diocese of Bridgeport. Visit www.thefaceofprayer.org.

Prepare for a Pilgrimage—Bishop Caggiano has invited people throughout the diocese to make a special pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C. on Saturday, September 23. Young people in particular are expected to join Bishop Frank for the one-day pilgrimage, which represents the culmination of the Face of Prayer campaign and the dedication of a new shrine to Our Blessed Mother at the basilica.

For more information about the pilgrimage visit: www.thefaceofprayer.org. (or see the ad on page 5 of this issue).

Summer wishes

(In this reflection, originally distributed on video, Bishop Caggiano wishes young people—and the young at heart—a great and prayerful summer.)

Summer is upon us and I know all of us are looking for time for relaxation—to step away and rejuvenate. That's the beauty of the summer. Many of you are ending school obligations, and I am proud of you for your achievements. You deserve time to rest, to meet with friends and enjoy the summer. I hope this summer is all that you're planning it to be. But I'm also hoping that it's not time away from your faith! We never take a vacation from the Lord and what we believe. I encourage you to make time to come to Mass. A tree without roots can't live, but you can nourish and renew your life by making time with Jesus, whether you're involved in an activity or at rest. You should also find time to serve the poor, the sick and lonely, not just ten months a year, but through the summer too. Often, summer is the time when people fight loneliness the most, when so many others are enjoying the company of friends and neighbors and they are still alone. Please don't take a vacation from faith. Pray, go to Mass, become disciples of service for 12 months, 365 days a year—and tell the world who we really are! We are disciples of the Lord, and his missionaries as we work to make the world a place that understands service, and love shared in the person of Jesus. Have a great summer!

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit

DANBURY—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano confirms a student at St. Peter School in Danbury while her pastor, Father Gregg Mecca, looks on. This spring, more than 4,000 8th and 9th graders were confirmed throughout the diocese. In the Sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized person is "sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit" and is strengthened for service to the Body of Christ. In Confirmation, we receive the message of faith in a deeper and more intensive manner with great emphasis given to the person of Jesus Christ, who asked the Father to give the Holy Spirit to the Church for building up the community in loving service.



CLERGY APPOINTMENT

The Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano, Bishop of Bridgeport, has made the following clergy appointments in the Diocese of Bridgeport:



VICAR

REVEREND JOSEPH A. MARCELLO, Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, Trumbull, to Vicar for Clergy. Effective date is June 30. Father Marcello will continue to serve as Pastor of Saint Catherine of Siena Parish.

PAROCHIAL VICAR

REVEREND MARCELO R. LOPRESTI, IVE, residing at Saint Roch Parish, Greenwich, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Roch Parish, Greenwich. Effective date is June 30.

REVEREND GREG J. MARKEY, from Graduate Studies at the School of Philosophy at The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Lawrence Parish, Shelton. Effective date is June 30.

REVEREND A. ALEXIS MORONTA, IVE, Parochial Vicar, Saint Mary Parish, Stamford, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Ann Parish, Bridgeport. Effective date is June 30.

REVEREND AUGUSTINE NGUYEN, Part-time Episcopal Chaplain of Kolbe Cathedral High School and Part-time Parochial Vicar, Church of the Assumption,

Westport, to Full-time Parochial Vicar at Church of the Assumption, Westport. Effective date is June 30. Father Nguyen will continue to serve as Episcopal Vicar for Vietnamese Catholics.

REVEREND IGNACIO ORTIGAS, Parochial Vicar, Saint Lawrence Parish, Shelton, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Aloysius Parish, New Canaan. Effective date is June 30.

REVEREND RALPH SEGURA, Parochial Vicar, Saint Aloysius Parish, New Canaan, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish, Norwalk. Effective date is June 30.

REVEREND LUKE SUAREZ, Episcopal Chaplain at Notre Dame High School, Fairfield, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, Trumbull. Effective date is June 30.

HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN

REVEREND HYGINUS AGU, Assistant Chaplain, Bridgeport Hospital and Resident, Saint Andrew Parish, Bridgeport, to Chaplain, Saint Vincent's Medical Center, Bridgeport. Effective date was May 31. Father Agu will continue to

reside at Saint Andrew Rectory.

REVEREND MATTHEW R. MAURIELLO, to Assistant Chaplain, Stamford Hospital. Effective date is June 30. Father Mauriello will remain Part-time Chaplain to Saint Camillus Center, Stamford and reside at Saint John Parish, Darien.

RETIREMENT

REVEREND ROBERT CROFUT, Parochial Vicar, Saint Pius X Parish, Fairfield to retirement. Effective is July 3. Father Crofut will reside at the Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of the Clergy Residence in Stamford.

RESIDENCE

REVEREND JOSEPH GILL, Saint Mary Parish, Stamford, to Holy Spirit Parish, Stamford. Effective date is June 30. Father Gill will remain Episcopal Chaplain of Trinity Catholic High School.

REVEREND NELLO A. BARACHINI, Retired, Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque Parish, Shelton, to Benchmark at Split Rock, Shelton. Effective date was May 5.

Monsignor Thomas W. Powers, Vicar General, June, 2017

FAIRFIELD COUNTY
CATHOLICOffice
of Communications
Diocese of Bridgeport

238 Jewett Avenue
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06606-2892
telephone | 203.416.1461
fax | 203.374.2044
email | fcc@diobpt.org

web | www.bridgeportdiocese.com
www.facebook.com/BridgeportDiocese
www.twitter.com/@DOBEvents

USPS no.: 12-117. Periodical postage paid at Bridgeport, CT 06601, and additional mailing offices.

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano
Publisher

Brian D. Wallace
Executive Editor bdwallace@diobpt.org

Pat Hennessy
Managing Editor phennessy@diobpt.org

Renée Stamatis
Art Director rstamatis@diobpt.org

Ralph Lazzaro
Advertising Manager rlazzaro@diobpt.org

Brian A. Wallace
Graphic Designer bwallace@diobpt.org

John Grosso
Social Media Leader jgrosso@diobpt.org

Ronnie Lazzaro
Copy Editor (Consultant)

Advertise

To place an ad, contact
Ralph Lazzaro: 203.667.1622

Circulation

Every registered Catholic household in Fairfield County is entitled to a subscription. To cancel, change or add an address, please email: fcc@diobpt.org

Annual Subscription Price

\$20 (within diocese)
\$50 (outside diocese)

Postmaster

send address changes to:
Fairfield County Catholic
238 Jewett Avenue
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06606-2892

© Copyright 2017, Diocese of Bridgeport

Editorial



'The power we have'

A WOMAN'S VOICE

BY SR. PATRICIA MCCARTHY, CND

Sr. Patricia McCarthy, CND, is Province Leader of Blessed Sacrament (US) Province and a columnist for Rhode Island Catholic.

June is the month of graduations at every level, from kindergarten to advanced university students. It is always a time to celebrate. For some, the accomplishment is easy and unspectacular. For others, the same graduation from the same school is almost miraculous, where obstacles and reality have called forth incredible courage and stamina. Children of professional people stand next to

children of immigrants, some of whom are illiterate.

Parents are proud, but at the ceremony itself, many are grateful if it is brief. Graduation speeches are rarely remembered, many because they are boring at best and tasteless at worst. Some are political rallies, others diatribes against opposing views from those of the speaker's.

This year, a light in the darkness of graduation addresses

came from Senator Cory Booker of New Jersey at the University of Pennsylvania. He told two stories and made one point. The first story was about Mahatma Gandhi. One time Gandhi was racing to make a train and lost his sandal as he jumped on the moving train. He immediately threw the other sandal on the tracks. "People were curious, 'Mahatma, why would you throw your other sandal out there?' and he looked like it was a confusing and bemusing question. He said, 'I threw the other sandal because whoever finds that first sandal, wouldn't it be nice if they found the other one as well?'"

The second story was closer to home. Senator Booker had driven through McDonald's late at night and ordered two large fries. As he was leaving, he saw a homeless man nearby. Senator Booker

gave him one of his containers of fries. When the Senator turned to leave, the man's face went from appreciation to anguish, almost as if he was in pain and he said, "Hey, man, do you have any socks? I need some socks."

The Senator answered "I'm sorry I can't help you," but then his driver, a retired police detective born in Newark, raised in the projects, threw the car in park, kicked off his shoes, pulled off his socks and handed them through the window.

Senator Booker said what he learned from both stories is the need to look at everyone and really see them, and to be open to love them and to do this in a creative way. Gandhi thought of the person who would find one sandal and knew he needed two sandals. He saw another's need before worrying about his own loss. Senator Booker's driver saw

the man's need for socks so he was creative enough to take off his own and give them to him. He saw the person in need and responded.

Senator Booker's advice to the graduates was simple: "I've begun to learn in my life that perhaps the biggest thing you could do on a given day is really just a small act of kindness, of decency, of love, an exhibition of moral imagination or creative compassion.

"As great as every one of us is, as much as I spent my life trying to change the world, we cannot forget that our real power is not necessarily to change the world, but to make a world of change to the people we encounter every day: a smile, a creative act and a kind word, finding a way to throw a sandal onto the track—that is the power we have today and every day."



Keep your bags packed

A DAD'S VIEW

BY MATTHEW HENNESSEY

Matthew Hennessey and his family are parishioners of St. Aloysius in New Canaan.

When you're sick and know you're going to die you do what's called "putting your affairs in order." The phrase calls to mind matters financial. More often, however, the ordering of affairs involves repairing personal relationships and inflating spiritual life rafts.

My dad—still going strong at 82—calls this "getting right with the Big Man." I take it he means the God of the Bible, though I try not to pry. "Don't worry about me," he says. "My bags are packed."

Years ago my friend Brett died in car crash. He was young and driving too fast—recklessly even—in the middle of the night on a remote stretch of Texas highway. He may not have been

wearing a seat belt. I'd seen him do that sometimes.

Brett was a wild man. You know the type—charming, handsome, magnetic. He wore leather jackets and cowboy shirts. People said he looked like a young Richard Gere.

I tried to warn Brett about his seat-belt stupidity. Maybe I wasn't as forceful as I should have been. It was thrilling to be around someone so unconcerned for his own safety. I was young, too. Everyone was young. It was years ago.

At the time of his death, Brett owed a small amount of money to another friend. This second friend had lent the money, perhaps inadvisably, because he didn't know how to refuse the request. Of the English lan-

guage's 170,000 words, is any harder to say than "No?"

It wasn't a lot of money. How much can it be when you're 24? But true to form, Brett failed to pay the loan back in a timely manner. The second friend took it as a personal insult.

"I thought I could trust you," he said. "I thought we were friends." To which the young Richard Gere replied, "Hey, if you're going to be that way about it." I believe he may have rolled his eyes for emphasis.

Time passed but the two of them couldn't reconcile. I tried some shuttle diplomacy. No use. They wouldn't speak. They wouldn't even acknowledge each other's presence.

Then, like a meteor, the inconceivable—Brett was gone. There would be no getting affairs in order. Not for him. Not for his friends and family.

Whatever pain and confusion I felt at Brett's death—and it was considerable—was of a different order from that felt by my second friend, the money lender. There was no use trying to console him. His dudgeon had been petty; he knew it and felt it. He understood that he was headed for a lifetime of regret.

The whole tragic episode was substantially aggravated by the fact that we were all so young. In those days I had almost no experience with death, never mind grief, acceptance, compassion, or true forgiveness. My friends and I were wired to explode. Everything went to eleven, as it does when first you encounter what Joyce called "the reality of experience."

All these bitter memories came rushing in like rain this week along with the news that Paul Windels had died. A fellow father in our small homeschool co-op, Paul had repeatedly and generously taken the time to play chess with our eight-year-old son, Patrick, when no other partner was to be found.

He made ancient history come alive for a room full of thirteen-year-olds. Our Clara was mesmerized when he'd lapse into Greek or draw ancient battle formations on the board, animatedly narrating the movements of Caesar's legions.

My wife had lately been planning to drop him a note of thanks for all of it. Then, without warning, it was too late. It will forever be too late.

A brilliant and accomplished

lawyer, Paul was beloved by the youngsters of the Colm Cille Club. He was never seen without a large book beneath his arm, to read for pleasure as he waited between classes. The kids delighted in his good nature and quirky ways. Instead of scolding them for their inevitable hallway antics, he'd offer a more elegant rebuke.

"I think that may be unwise," he'd say. Or: "I don't recommend that." They never knew how lucky they were to have such a beautiful mind in their midst.

Paul wasn't 24 like Brett, but he was too young to go to his reward. His wonderful children and his loving wife are coping with grief of unimaginable dimension. Their solace is their unshakeable Catholic faith—something that my young friends and I didn't have to brace us years ago.

If God knows what he's doing, heaven has enough room for these very different men: one wild stallion, the other pater familias. In each case our lives touched only briefly, but they haven't been forgotten. They never will be.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them.

Diocesan News

DREs connect young people to the Eucharist

By PRISCILLA MAHAR

Writer and youth minister Kevin Dowd said Millennials are “a generation of brokenness,” who also represent the “the highest population of devout Christians in the past three generations.”

Speaking to more than 100 directors of religious education (DREs) at an end of the year gathering in Queen of Saints Hall at the Catholic Center, Dowd, a Harvard graduate, youth minister and researcher, stressed the importance of connecting today’s generation to the Eucharist.

He said there is a desire in youth for the communion with Jesus and for the Eucharist, and there is a need to nurture their interest beyond simply providing information. He praised the men and women who are responsible for coordinating the religious education of more than 30,000 young people in 82 parishes across the diocese.

Those who are called to spread the word of Jesus at a time when many people are not accepting of the message might often feel “like lambs in the midst of wolves.”

Dowd told them that anyone who works in ministry may from time to time feel unworthy to follow in Jesus footsteps and finish his work on earth. Urging them to take heart in the Gospel, he referred to a passage from 2 Corinthians 12:9, “my grace is enough for you,” emphasizing that with the help of the Lord, people can act as Jesus did, even in situations that seem hopeless.

Dowd’s presentation reminded DREs that they are called to do something great, but in this they are not acting alone, but with the grace of God.

Throughout his presentation, Dowd emphasized the importance of not just teaching theology and providing information, but nurturing the spirit of particular individuals.



DRE'S YEAR END GATHERING—Catholic writer and speaker Kevin Dowd says that Millennials represent the highest population of devout Christians in three decades.

He said that youth have a desire to serve, and that many volunteer service projects “form good humanitarians,” but in order to have fully formed Christians, the service must be rooted in the Eucharist.

Quoting Matthew 7:21, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord,

Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven will enter,” Dowd said that service shouldn’t be about “resume building or personal gain,” but rather should reflect a genuine concern for others and love for the Lord.

After working with youth for a number of years at the Capuchin Youth Center in New York, Dowd said he is familiar with the struggles that the Millennials go through. “People may be receiving the body of Christ without being the Body of Christ,” Dowd said, clarifying that while teaching information is good, in order for faith to grow it has to be nurtured.

As faith must be nurtured in youth, it is also important to nurture the faith of DREs and others lay ministers, he said.

He encouraged them by saying that, even in times of struggle, they are making a difference in someone’s life as long as they remember the one whom they are ultimately serving and that wholesomeness comes from Christ, the Eucharist, and the Church.

(For more information, contact Rose Talbot Babey, coordinator of Childhood Faith Formation in the Diocese of Bridgeport: rtalbotbabey@diobpt.org.)

Celebration honors consecrated life

WESTPORT—Twelve priests concelebrated at the Celebration Mass for Consecrated Life, held on May 16 at St. Luke Parish in Westport. Bishop Frank J. Caggiano was the principal celebrant and homilist at the Mass.

One hundred and fifty women and men Religious were present for the celebration, representing about 40 orders that serve in the diocese. In his homily, the bishop

drew from the Gospel account of Jesus’ visit to the home of Martha and Mary (Lk. 10:38-42). In the narrative, Mary seated herself at the Lord’s feet and listened to his words, while Martha was busy with all the details of hospitality.

“The bishop spoke of the balance that has to be struck between the more contemplative life that Mary represents and the active model that Martha gives,” said Sister Nancy Strillacci, ASCJ, the delegate for Religious



for the Diocese of Bridgeport. The Mass included a Renewal of Vows, with all Religious standing and asking God to “grant the grace to live our consecration in love and with joy.”

At the end of the Mass, the bishop recognized 21 jubilarians.

The two oldest had each celebrated 75 years of religious life: Sister Amelia Menardi and Sister Marie Anna Moltz, both School Sisters of Notre Dame. The jubilarians were all presented with a framed picture of Christ in the House of Martha and Mary by Polish artist

Henrik Siemiradzki during the dinner that followed.

In an unusual addition to the celebration, Bishop Caggiano’s 30th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination was also recognized because it fell on that date.



Priest Profile: Father Eric Silva

'I'm finally who God made me to be'

By **PRICILLA MAHAR**

As he approaches the anniversary of his ordination, Father Eric Silva, parochial vicar at St. Joseph Parish in Brookfield, says that his first year as a priest has been the best and most beautiful time of his life.

One thing he has particularly enjoyed is the ability to give the New Priest Blessing—which he'll be able to do until his June 18th anniversary. Priests can give this blessing for up to one year after their ordination.

Three more men from the diocese will receive that privilege on Saturday June 24, when they are ordained as priests by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano at St. Augustine Cathedral.

As seminarians Tim Iannacone, Harry Prieto, and José Abelardo Vásquez prepare for ordination, Father Silva looks back on that important day in his own life and the blessings it has brought him. "Ordination is not simply a graduation from the seminary, but is meant to give continued

glory to God. It's Christ making himself even more known through a weak and fallen man" Father Silva says.

Father Silva, who grew up in Trumbull, attended St. Theresa Church and graduated from St. Joseph High School, says that being a priest has fulfilled his life. "I'm finally who God made me to be," he says, and asks the faithful to pray for more priests from our diocese. "If you see a young man and you think he would make a good priest, tell him! And then pray for him."

After eight years of seminary, he was well prepared to serve in the way the Lord has called him to, but quickly adds that he wasn't sure what to expect in his life as a priest.

"Every priest has a different experience," says Father Silva, "but I've gotten so much advice." The advice that Father Silva values most is the same advice that he now gives to seminarians and laypeople alike, and that is to pray. This may seem obvious, but it tends to get neglected in the business of life.

Father Silva emphasizes the importance of prayer for every-

one. Drawing from words he heard from a priest at World Youth Day last summer in Krakow, Poland, Father Silva says "You give no glory to God unless you begin and end your day on your knees. Essentially, no matter how you're called to serve the Church, unless you glorify him first, God can't be glorified through you."

In regards to long-term goals, Father Silva says he just desires holiness. "I want to be a saint and I want my children to be saints" he says, referring to the children of his parish.

He says that many people think of a priest as a man who doesn't get to have a family, but they misunderstand the fatherly role and devotion that priests bring to the parish. "Getting to be a spiritual father and having children to pray for, to know, to love, and to serve, brings me the most joy."

Celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation is his favorite, most fulfilling part of being a priest, because he is able to give mercy to sinners by the grace of God. "It's the father's role to enact mercy and justice in the lives of his children," he says,



FATHER ERIC SILVA, a native of Trumbull

"and when it comes to the mercy we receive in Confession, sin is just really forgettable."

Aside from Our Lord and Mother Mary, Father Silva has great devotion for St. Joseph, and not just because Joseph is the patron saint of his parish. "Is there anyone else I should model my life after? St. Joseph is the perfect example of how a priest should live," he says.

Just as Joseph took care of Mary and the child Jesus, a priest is called to take care of and act as a father for his parish, and Father Silva finds absolute joy in doing just that.

Deacon Inquiry

BRIDGEPORT— Deacon Anthony Cassaneto, Ph.D., director of the Diaconate Office, has announced an "Inquiry Period" for those men interested in discerning a vocation to the diaconate.

Information sessions will be held at the Catholic Center on June 12 and June 26, as well as on July 10 and July 24, each of them at 7 pm. Men who are seeking information on diaconal formation and ministry are invited to attend any of the scheduled information sessions.

The vocation to the diaconate begins within the parish community. Pastors are encouraged to invite men who have faithfully served their parish community by word and example, who are prayerful, and who have the support of their wife and family, to attend an information session.

The Inquiry Period is time to discern the Lord's will in your life. Men are encouraged during this period to begin spiritual direction, to receive the



sacraments on a regular basis, most especially Holy Communion and Reconciliation; to pray the Rosary daily; to faithfully serve the parish community; and to speak with a permanent deacon from the local community.

Upon the receipt of a pastor's recommendation and a letter from the spouse supporting her husband's desire to formally apply to the diaconate, the "Inquirer" can begin the application process. Ideally, men applying to the diaconate should be between the ages of 40-60.

The application process begins in September and ends in December. Upon acceptance, the man in formation begins a six-month program of spiritual discernment and reflection. Workshops on prayer, spiritual direction, liturgy, the history of the diaconate and the role and ministry of the deacon will be explored from January to June.

(For more information, contact Deacon Anthony Cassaneto: 203.416.1451 or dncassaneto@diobpt.org.)

*The Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano
The Board of Trustees and the Entire
Community of St. Joseph's Seminary
Congratulates*

Rev. Mr. Jose Abelardo Vasquez

Rev. Mr. Tim Iannacone

Rev. Mr. Harry Prieto

*on their Ordination to the Priesthood
on June 24, 2017*



Catholic Culture

Thoughts of a Catholic Gardener

By **BARRY WALLACE**

Somehow a garden is not complete without a statue—and it's interesting to note how many religious statues work their way into local gardens.

I have a statue of St. Francis of Assisi in my front yard. He stands surrounded by a ring of giant hosta beneath our Mountain Ash tree.

Now—I was told that he is St. Francis, but he looks suspiciously like a statue of St. Fiocre that a Jesuit friend of mine kept in his own garden. When it comes to Catholic statuary, male saints tend to look alike: bearded, rugged, rustic and gentle, all at the same time.

That's fine with me. It gives

me something to live up to when I put on the gloves and grab the shovel for another season.

I've always been mindful of God in the garden and in the beauty of our growing season. Working a garden brings me closer to the divine energy that animated the world and still pours into our hearts like sun on a summer day. God is, after all, the light of the world.

I also keep a small Celtic cross in the backyard to keep me company with my weeding and to bless those hot summer days in the shade. The cross is fittingly broken like an ancient Irish grave stone, but in this case it was a gray squirrel that rudely knocked it over while chasing after a hickory nut.

Catholic garden statuary is a lot of fun as well as a sign of our bonds with creation. St. Francis is still the most popular of green saints. He appears with a menagerie of animals. You can find him



Catholic Cemeteries

Diocese of Bridgeport

Pre-planning your final resting place will **give** you and your family **peace of mind**

Purchasing a **crypt in advance** affords you the opportunity to have up to **two years** to pay **interest free**

Crypts are available at the following cemeteries:

St. Michael Cemetery
2205 Stratford Avenue
Stratford, Connecticut
203.378.0404

St. John Cemetery
223 Richards Avenue
Norwalk, Connecticut
203.838.4271

St. Mary — Putnam Cemetery
399 North Street
Greenwich, Connecticut
203.869.4828

By choosing a Catholic Cemetery, one selects a final resting place that reflects the beliefs and values from life's personal journey. It is a resting place that is sacred and shared with all believers awaiting the resurrection of the dead and the promise of everlasting life.

Make an appointment today!

standing with horses, wolves, birds and rabbits to name a few. The holy man attracted all living things towards him because of his love for God and his recognition of God in all things. His "Canticle of Brother Sun" is one of the most moving and joyful prayers in the Western tradition. In it he thanks God for Brother Sun, Brother Wind, Sister Water, and Mother Earth "who doth sustain us and keep us, and bring forth many fruits and flowers of many colors, and grass."

St. Francis isn't alone in his love for God and nature. There are many saints busy tending the fields and keeping their own sacred patch of earth. If you are thinking of becoming a vintner, you might pray to St. Urban, who had a hand for the grapes and a pallet to match his talent. Do you think that Jesus' turning the water into wine may have been one of Urban's favorite passages? Jesus celebrated the good things of this earth, the fruit of the vine and the work of human hands.

Work is what Catholic saints do. St. Fiocre specializes in herb and vegetable gardens. Santa Barbara is patron saint of geologists, and a good saint to pray to if you have one of those naturally rocky Connecticut yards to contend with. In Catholic statuary, the angels are immediately put to

work holding baskets, collecting rain, playing the harp and generally urging on the birds and the bees in the ongoing cycle of life. St. Joseph carves posts for the garden and does any of the carpentry needed. Today he might be put to work with raised beds and arbors for Mary's dooryard garden.

Somewhat portly monks with Buddha smiles also join the group. Monks have always known their ways around the garden and the kitchen from soups to breads. The ancient traditions of food growing and gathering remain a part of monastic life today. A monk at work in nature is a sign of God at work in us. Of course the same is true for the convent, and I would suspect that the cooking is even better. Hildegard of Bingen is represented holding a potted plant. I carry a small book of her verse with me to read when I rest in the garden.

Let's also recall that Pope Francis has cheered the hearts of gardeners everywhere with characteristic gestures early in his papacy. On the morning of March 22, 2013, the Pope celebrated a small Mass for the Vatican's janitors and gardeners in the Domus Sanctae Marthae chapel. The following year he opened the spectacular gardens of the papal summer residence, Castel Gondolfo, to the public.

Of course, even with a papal blessing, the garden needs protection from pests and evil spirits. For this we have the fierce St. Michael the Archangel, a holy warrior against the wiles of Satan, aphids and woodchucks. I do remind myself that God created the woodchucks too.

St. Patrick had no use for snakes in his garden and banished them from Ireland forever. The snake, of course, is a problematic figure in Eden as well as your own backyard.

Nothing is perfect on earth, but with the saints behind us, let's all have a good year in the garden. ■

ACA

FROM PAGE 4

vice chair.

Appeal director Pam Rittman said there are many ways to give to the appeal including online giving and the new "Text to Give" program (text sharing to 50555 during the month of June). Parishioners who work for a company with matching gifts program, can inquire about the program, particularly if their appeal gift is designated for charities and education.

(For more information on programs and ways to give, go to www.2017ACAbidgeport.com or phone 203.416.1470.) ■

Nuestra Voz

Misa Latina, 'un ejercicio de amor'

POR MARICARMEN GODOY

Celebrar la misa en latín en pleno siglo XXI parecería una práctica caduca, fuera de lugar y fuera de tiempo; sin embargo, en la Iglesia Santa María (Saint Mary) ubicada en 669 West Avenue en pleno centro de Norwalk, es un regocijo para sus feligreses participar en esta celebración.

Ante esto el Padre Richard Cipolla, pastor de Saint Mary, y quien se ha acogido en cuerpo y alma a la tradición antigua de impartir la homilía en latín responde: "La misa hay que entenderla como un ejercicio de amor. La misa es acerca de Dios y él debe estar incluido en su totalidad".

Hace más de una década el Padre Greg Markey, pastor de Saint Mary en ese tiempo, decidió tomar el riesgo de regresar las tradiciones católicas impuestas durante siglos.

Acorde con el Padre Cipolla, "la misa es un ejercicio espiritual para agradar a Dios y por eso es necesario que los fieles sepan que no se trata de un evento social para agradar al sacerdote ni a la feligresía, sino que sea visto como un misterio de fe"; razón suficiente para entender por qué los sacerdotes que ofician las misas tradicionales en latín dan la espalda a sus feligreses con la mirada al Santísimo en señal de que es un momento de sacrificio y conexión con Dios.

El padre admitió que este un tema complejo de entender porque la población estadounidense es una sociedad secular con un alto porcentaje que vive con pequeño entendimiento de la fe y muchos que ni siquiera creen en Dios.

El Padre Cipolla nació en el seno de una familia protestante dentro de la iglesia episcopal y se convirtió al catolicismo cuando tenía 35 años de edad. El padre ya tiene 42 años de pertenecer a la iglesia católica. "Practicar la fe de la iglesia católica es un reto", dijo el Padre Cipolla, quien siendo ministro episcopal decidió tomar la fe católica al entender, por fe, que la verdadera iglesia es la católica porque ésta fue funda-

da por el mismo Jesucristo.

"¡Me encanta venir a la misa en latín! El padre, cuando da su sermón en español, siempre tiene las palabras adecuadas y a la hora que habla en latín no creo que es necesario entenderlo porque en ese momento uno se conecta con Dios en forma directa", dijo Ivette Castro-Valderrama, una inmigrante boliviana que vive en el West Side de Norwalk y está inscrita en la parroquia junto a sus tres hijas y esposo.

La comunidad de Saint Mary se considera como única, vibrante y multiétnica, está unificada en su reverencia a la Santísima Trinidad en el Santo Sacrificio de la Misa. Ofrece misas en inglés, español y latín; esta última considerada como mística (totalmente espiritual) desde los primeros tiempos de la iglesia.

Las misas en español fusionadas con el latín se ofrece cada sábado a las siete de la noche y el domingo a la 1:15 de la tarde, en donde además de escuchar fragmentos en latín y español se escucha al Coro Hispano interpretar el Canto llano o Gregoriano; ofreciendo a sus fieles la oportunidad de encontrar un tesoro artístico musical dentro de la iglesia de una manera que rara vez se encuentra hoy. Pero no solo la simbología musical está involucrada en esta Misa, sino la simbología en el oropel de los trajes para los sacramentos, y en los vasos de oro para la Consagración del cuerpo y sangre de Cristo; porque, dice el Padre Cipolla: "el tributo a Dios debe ser sublime y por ende "hermoso".

"No estamos contradiciendo las disposiciones del Concilio Vaticano II, porque éste no anuló el latín ni las tradiciones desde los inicios de la iglesia" dice. "Lo único que estamos haciendo es acogiéndonos a una necesidad de que nuestros feligreses se sientan conectados directamente con Dios y que sepan que la Misa es un Misterio de fe, un sacrificio; no un acto social para lucirse".

Además de la Misa Tradicional en latín hay grupos sociales, festivos, hora semanal de café después de la misa

de las 9:30 y procesiones en las fiestas por las calles de Norwalk, fomentando una comunidad unida en la fe en un grupo diverso de feligreses.

Además, hay prácticas devocionales católicas, grupos de apoyo para tratar temas de adicciones, clases de educación religiosa o estudio de la Biblia para profundizar la fe y el popular Coro Hispano, que por años ensaya una variedad de repertorio para aumentar la belleza y solemnidad de la liturgia. Y cada 12 de diciembre la fiesta hispana en honor a la virgen mexicana, la de Guadalupe.

En la parroquia se encuentran registradas 693 familias, el 65 por ciento de éstas son de ascendencia hispana. Hay un grupo de



MASS IN LATIN AND GREGORIAN CHANT echo fervently in Saint Mary Church in Norwalk. The vestments and chalices reflect the ancient traditions emphasizing the Mass as a Mystery of Faith. The St. Mary community considers itself as one, vibrant and multiethnic, unified by the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

oración constante y la capilla del Santísimo está abierta todo el día. El Padre Cipolla atiende el despacho parroquial con el apoyo del diácono Stephan Genovese y una secretaria, Erlinda Zelaya, que

habla inglés y español.

(Si usted quiere contactarse con el despacho parroquial para inscripciones a la catequesis o cumplir con algún sacramento, puede comunicarse con Erlinda Zelaya: 203.866.5546.)



Those with Down Syndrome,
their family and friends
are invited to

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass asking
for the intercession of St. Robert Bellarmine
Father Joseph Koterski, S.J., celebrant

Sunday, September 17, 2017
9:30am at St. Mary Church

669 West Avenue, Norwalk, Connecticut 06850
Reception following the Mass, all are welcome

Please come and join the MOMs+DADs prayer/support group
(Mother of Mercy spiritual Divine Advocate for Down syndrome)
Third Thursday of every month, 7:30pm at St. Mary's Parish Center

Next prayer meeting will be September 21, 2017

Inquiries welcome at strapostolate@optimum.net

Obituaries

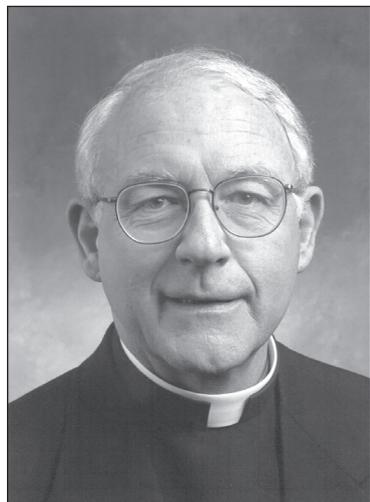
Msgr. Peter Dora, 76, educator, pastor & chaplain

Msgr. Peter P. Dora died on June 5 at Calvary Hospital, Bronx, NY.

A Stamford native, he was born on April 29, 1941, the son of Paul and Rose Kmetz Dora. He attended K.T. Murphy Grammar School, St. Mary School and Stamford High School, and was prepared for the priesthood at St. Thomas Seminary, Bloomfield and St. Mary Seminary in Baltimore, Md.

He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Walter W. Curtis on May 20, 1967, at St. Augustine Cathedral, Bridgeport.

Always interested in education, after ordination he served as faculty member and spiritual director of Notre Dame Girl's High School in Bridgeport (now Notre Dame High in Fairfield); St. Mary High School in Greenwich, now the home of



MSGR. PETER P. DORA

Greenwich Catholic School; and at the former Christ the King Preparatory School in Southport. He was also spiritual director of the Diocesan College House of Studies, the predecessor of St.

John Fisher Seminary.

During his years in education, Msgr. Dora assisted at several parishes, including Holy Name of Jesus, Stratford; Christ the King, Trumbull; St. Gabriel, Stamford; St. Thomas Aquinas, Fairfield; and St. Michael the Archangel, Greenwich. In 1973, he was named director of religious education for the diocese.

In 1976, Msgr. Dora took a sabbatical to pursue ecumenical studies at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and at the Woodstock Center at Georgetown University, and he later completed further studies at Fairfield University and at the Monastery of Taize, France.

He was appointed director of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs in 1981, a position he held for 10 years.

In 1984, he was named pastor of Saint Benedict Parish in Stamford. In 1990 he was appointed pastor of Holy Name of Jesus in Stratford, where he had started as a part-time parochial vicar after his ordination. In 2003, he became the pastor of St. Theresa Parish, Trumbull, a position he held until 2006, when he took the post of chaplain at Stamford Hospital with residence at St. Clement Parish in Stamford.

"It's a joy to serve the people of God in the Diocese of Bridgeport, and to grow in faith and grace with the people in the various parishes where I have served," Msgr. Dora said at the time of his appointment to St. Theresa Parish.

Msgr. Dora was also a diocesan consultant, president of the Board of Directors Catholic School System for Region VI, and was on the Clergy Personnel Committee and the Priests'

Council. He was named Chaplain to His Holiness by Pope John Paul II in 1991, with the title of Monsignor.

Msgr. Dora lived in retirement at Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of the Clergy Residence in Stamford.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Msgr. Dora at St. Bridget Church, Stamford, on June 9. Burial followed at St. John Cemetery.

Msgr. Dora is mourned by his older sister, Sister Patricia Dora, CSJ, of Hartford, his twin sister, Mary Rose Patton and her husband, Dwight, and by his nieces and nephews.

(In lieu of flowers, donations in Msgr. Dora's memory can be made to the Congregation of St. Joseph, 650 Willard Avenue, Newington, CT 06111; and the Expansion Fund of the Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of Clergy Retired Priests' Residence, 274 Strawberry Hill Ave., Stamford, CT 06902.)

FUNERAL GUIDE

NEIL F. HARDING
Director/Owner

Harding

FUNERAL HOME

203/227-3458
FAX 203/227-1420

210 POST ROAD EAST
WESTPORT, CT 06881

COLLINS FUNERAL HOME

92 EAST AVENUE • NORWALK
866-0747

WILLIAM A. SKIDD WILLIAM G. LAHEY, JR.
WILLIAM R. KELLEY WILLIAM P. SKIDD
ANDREW D. SKIDD

Family owned for four generations

PRE-NEED FUNERAL PLANNING



MATTHEW K. MURPHY,
FUNERAL DIRECTOR

267 GREENWICH AVENUE
GREENWICH, CT 06830
203-869-0315



"Quiet Dignity Without Extravagance"
Affordable Direct Cremation
Title XIX Welcome

County Cremation Service

- ✦ Family owned for three generations
- ✦ Handling every detail
- ✦ Call for free informative brochure
- ✦ In home arrangements
- ✦ 203-254-1414 or 800-542-0218
- ✦ Memorial service facility

DECEASED CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT JUNE 18—JULY 22

JUNE		
19	Rev. Robert S. McBride	1982
	Msgr. Frank Wissel.....	2014
20	Msgr. John J. Bumstead.....	1996
21	Rev. Albert D. Talbot	1962
22	Rev. Xavier Renda.....	2009
24	Rev. Frankln J. Corrigan.....	1974
	Msgr. William A. Genuario	2015
25	Rev. Albert A. Tomasko	1978
27	Rev. J. Barry Furey.....	2012
28	Rev. John J. Draper.....	1966
30	Rev. Arthur E. Norton.....	2004
	Msgr. Thomas P. Mooney	1956
	Msgr. John E. Tomis	1986
JULY		
1	Rev. Anthony J. Intagliata	1990
2	Rev. Alfred J. Carmody	1958
5	Msgr. John J. Hayes	1964
6	Msgr. Philip N. Salmone.....	1967
8	Rev. James J. Kane.....	1956
9	Rev. Sean F. Flynn	1978
10	Rev. Edward F. Doyle	1981
	Deacon Stephen Sebestyen.....	2011
12	Rev. Edwin Coyne.....	2013
13	Msgr. James P. Devine	1972
	Rev. A. Fred Constantino	1980
17	Msgr. Walter R. Conroy	1997
	Fr. Robert Terentieff.....	2011
19	Msgr. Bartholomew J. Laurello.....	2004
20	Rev. John M. Conlisk.....	1990
	Rev. Peter DeMarco	2015
	Rev. Kevin P. Fitzpatrick.....	2008
	Rev. Chester Kicia, O.F.M.	2003
	Msgr. John J. Wigh	1995
21	Rev. David H. Krahel.....	2008
22	Msgr. Nicholas P. Coleman, P.A.	1963

June 2017

Sports

For Mitchell, reading leads to Super Bowl ring

By DON HARRISON

Malcolm Mitchell is an engaging 23-year-old wide receiver who catches passes for the Super Bowl-champion New England Patriots, but he spoke about another of his passions—reading—during his visit to Bridgeport on May 17.

“Football, that came natural,” he said. “I had to work to read.”

Mitchell was the featured speaker at the School Volunteer Association of Bridgeport’s 50th anniversary breakfast at the downtown Holiday Inn. Some 300 people paid \$75 per plate to support the School Volunteer Association and to hear Mitchell impart some of life’s lessons.

“He was the perfect person to talk about reading. It’s what we’re all about,” said Anne Gribbon, the School Volunteer Association’s executive director.

Mitchell, an NFL rookie with the Patriots last season, admitted that upon entering the University of Georgia on a football scholarship, he “could only read at a junior high level.”

The lone book in his Valdosta, Georgia, home was the Bible.

A chance meeting with a middle-aged woman at a Barnes & Noble led to his joining her book club, “Even though,” he noted, “we were of a different gender and ethnicity.” They clicked. CBS Evening News shared scenes from one of the book club’s monthly meetings during a segment devoted to Mitchell just prior to the 2017 Super Bowl.

“I couldn’t have made the Patriots if I couldn’t read well,” he said. “Being a better reader will help you reach your full potential.”

Determined to bring his academics up to his superb athletic level, Mitchell became an avid reader and lover of books. This led to him writing a children’s book, “The Magician’s Hat”—accomplished during the one and one-half seasons he spent rehabbing a torn ACL. He also



NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS’ WIDE RECEIVER Malcolm Mitchell delighted the audience of more than 300 at the School Volunteer Association of Bridgeport at its 50th anniversary breakfast (r). Malcolm Mitchell shared his story of overcoming his reading difficulties with students at Dunbar School following the School Volunteer Association breakfast. All students received a copy of his children’s book, “The Magician’s Hat.”

established a nonprofit foundation, Read With Malcolm, which promotes the benefits of reading and book ownership.

Mitchell was a resounding success in his first NFL season, catching 32 passes for 401 yards and four touchdowns. In the Super Bowl, he contributed six catches worth 70 yards to New England’s improbable, come-

from-behind 34-28 victory over the Atlanta Falcons.

“What happened when you didn’t catch one of Tom Brady’s passes?” somebody asked during the question-and-answer segment of the breakfast. Mitchell smiled before responding, “My bad.”

After breakfast, Mitchell headed over to the Paul Laurence Dunbar School in the Park City’s



east end to share his love of reading with students.

“Ten years ago, I was in your shoes. Didn’t like school. Skipped class. Especially if I had to read aloud in front of everyone,” he told an enthusiastic gathering of 300 students in the Dunbar auditorium.

Mitchell read his book aloud, and then each student was presented a copy.

“After that, he met with

our seventh and eighth grade scholars. He wanted to motivate them to improve themselves,” said Dunbar Principal Alyshia Perrin.” Later, many of the older students wrote thank-you letters to the Patriots’ wide receiver.

Mitchell’s love of reading and books is perfectly aligned with the work of the School Volunteer Association of Bridgeport.

The organization was launched in 1964 as a project of the Junior League of Eastern Fairfield County at Waltersville School. Two years later the American Association of University Women assumed leadership. The program was incorporated in 1967 and rapidly expanded throughout the city’s schools.

Today, approximately 1,000 adults from greater Bridgeport join as volunteers for the association’s annual Read Aloud Day in October and the ongoing reading enrichment, tutoring and mentoring programs. The organization annually donates 16,000 books to classrooms and student home libraries to promote the value and enjoyment of reading.

(For volunteer opportunities, call 203.275.1120 or visit www.bridgeportedu.com/svab/.)

CATHOLIC PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

Law Office of James M. Hughes

Elder Law/TITLE 19/MEDICAID-Planning
Veteran’s Benefits - “Aid & Attendance”
Estates/Probate/Real Estate

1432 Post Road, Fairfield, Connecticut 06824
203.256.1977 — hughes_james@sbcglobal.net
www.fairfieldctelderlaw.com

Home PC & Mac Help

Magtype Computer Resources
A division of Magtype LLC
Computer Systems, Networks,
E-mail, Internet, Training & Tutoring
MENTION THIS AD TO RECEIVE THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC DISCOUNT!
203.377.7908 ext: 112 www.magtype.com

UNITED SEWER & DRAIN CLEANING, INC.

RESIDENTIAL EMERGENCY DRAIN CLEANING

MUNICIPAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL

24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE • LICENSED & INSURED

377-8704

OR 1-800-422-3724

Office: 534 Surf Avenue • Stratford

- CATCH BASIN CLEANING
- HIGH VELOCITY WATER JETTING
- LARGE DIAMETER POWER RODDING

- TV PIPE INSPECTION
- AIR TESTING
- JET RODDING
- VACTOR SERVICE



203-847-8000 - SINCE 1963

Carpets
a Mess
Call..



www.triplesclean.com

Column: Thomas Hicks



The antechamber to heaven

POTPOURRI

BY THOMAS H. HICKS

Thomas Hicks is a member of St. Theresa Parish in Trumbull.

“**T**hey come! The merry months of beauty, song, and flowers. They come! The gladsome months.” (William Motherwell, “The Merry Summer Months”)

A new summer has begun. We

have the gift of another summer, when life is at the apex.

For me, it is in summer when one really lives. It is the season when life is easier. For one whose professional life revolved around the academic calendar, summer still carries a sense of escape.

From childhood on, summer and I have been best friends—long have I loved it. Most of the good memories of my childhood are memories of summer. I look back happily upon summer which gave me sea and sand, picnics, sarsaparilla and cream soda, baseball time and fishing time, ice cream trucks jingling through the neighborhood and nothing seemed more important than the best choice of ice cream.

Time was largely unstructured. It was a time when parents were not booking agents. It was expected that kids could and should amuse themselves. We had time to be enterprising, time to make something happen in the long, hot nothingness of days and days.

The summers of childhood seemed endless. There was the feeling that summer would never end, that such days had come forever. What child, while summer is happening, bothers to think that summer will end? The magic of summer may be something best seen by a child.

When I think of summer now, I think in images: the beach, blooming gardens, paperbacks stained by suntan lotion, the whir of a lawnmower, the sound of children’s jump-rope chorus on a summer evening, sweet-smelling rain.

I love the long, soft evenings when it is still light long after supper. The day seems to go on and on. Color quiets down and gradually the air takes on a violet tinge. And there is summer’s mellow midnight.

There are those matchless summer mornings when the air streams with the pulse of life. And as Keats said, “what is more gentle than a wind in summer?” (“Sleep and Poetry”).

“Summer afternoon—summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language” (Henry James). There is the tranquil silence of a summer afternoon; the silence is quite startling. Nothing moves, nothing dares to move. Everything is absolutely still. There is not a breath of wind and there are the magnificent cumulus clouds in

the summer sky.

Midsummer brings thunderstorms to New England, and they have a grandeur which is awesome.

“The God of glory thunders, Extol Him Who rides on the clouds.

The Lord thunders over the mighty waters.

The voice of the Lord is powerful...

The voice of the Lord strikes with flashes of lightning.”

(Psalm 29)

I hate to see each summer day end; I unwillingly let each of them

slip away. But summer is too beautiful to stay, and the dreaded Labor Day always arrives. My memory of Labor Day, even as a child, is one of remembering the loneliness of a summer lost. Even today, Labor Day brings the end of summer and a memory of all lost and lovely things.

A summer day can appear as an emblem of perfect happiness, the antechamber to heaven.

It displays the work of an Almighty Hand.

So, blessings on your summer. May God grant us all blue skies this summer. Grant us the good sense to revel in life. Grant us the wisdom to know that there is a time to play, a time to cease from our labors. Summer leisure is the time to experience the fullness of being. ■

“I love the long, soft evenings when it is still light long after supper. The day seems to go on and on.”

Independent Senior Living Communities in Trumbull, CT

Units Now Available

Perhaps the greatest joy in retiring is knowing you can live life to its fullest.

Maintaining your independence and helping you enjoy your life is our main goal at Carmel Ridge and Teresian Towers. Located on the grounds of St. Joseph’s Center, our unique independent senior communities provide the supportive environment you may need to live life to its fullest.

Amenities

- ◆ 24-hour emergency maintenance
- ◆ 24-hour emergency medical monitoring
- ◆ On-site management
- ◆ Activities coordinator
- ◆ On-site chapel
- ◆ Optional meal plan
- ◆ Library
- ◆ Community room
- ◆ Swimming pool and nearby golfing

Call today for more information,
203-261-2229 in Connecticut,
or 1-800-852-3866 out of state.

Inquire about our Rentals, starting from \$1,150 per month, or our Life Use Units from \$58,000.

Teresian Towers & Carmel Ridge

6454 Main Street, Trumbull, CT 06611

WinnResidential

A non-denominational facility owned by the Diocese of Bridgeport. Professionally managed by WinnResidential.



KIDNEY NEEDED

My name is Peggy Karbovanec and I desperately need a kidney transplant.

To learn more about my situation, please contact me at:
203.666.6993

Email: maggieclaire5@gmail.com

Or visit my website:
www.kidneyforpeggy.com

Or call:
1.866.925.3897 – Yale
1.212.746.3723 – NY Presbyterian

Column: Joe Pisani



Breaking free of TV prison

SWIMMING UPSTREAM

BY JOE PISANI

Joe Pisani has been a writer and editor for 30 years.

I feel pretty good about myself after reading that the average American wastes 13,471 hours a year fiddling with the remote control, trying to find something to watch on TV, which probably doesn't include the time spent actually watching TV—more than four hours a day or an estimated 9 years for a person who is 65. Just thinking about it makes my brain throb.

Since I don't own a TV, that's bonus time I can spend on productive activities, such as shopping on Amazon, arguing with my daughters, and pursuing my wife's preferred pastime for me—yard work.

This is something I have in common with Pope Francis, who for more than 25 years has kept

the television turned off because of a promise he made to the Blessed Virgin. In an interview with the Argentinean newspaper *La Voz del Pueblo*, he said: "I have not watched TV since 1990. It's a promise that I made to the Virgin of Carmen on the night of July 15, 1990. I told myself: 'it's not for me.'"

Even though he loves soccer, the Pope resists the temptation to turn on the boob tube. Instead, he asks a Swiss Guard to tell him how his favorite team, San Lorenzo de Almagro in Buenos Aires, did in the league rankings.

I didn't always share his philosophy—or eccentricity, depending upon your view. I grew up in a home with five televisions, one in every room. Four of them

worked and one was broken, but we kept it anyway because my father refused to take it to the dump, possibly hoping it would miraculously repair itself. Every so often, he tried to turn it on, expecting Ed Sullivan or Andy Griffith to appear.

He loved shows about cops and robbers and World War II, so TV violence was a regular part of our lives, and gunfire constantly echoed throughout our home. Sometimes it sounded like the Battle of the Bulge was being fought in our living room.

I endured enough violence back then to last a lifetime. But television has gotten much worse, and even prime time is saturated with graphic violence, sex and profanity, which leads me to conclude most programs can be succinctly described as "trash." (That's a professional term I like to use.) The problem, however, is Americans don't realize its trash. They call it "entertainment." I recently saw an ad for another creative milestone, an Amazon-inspired program titled, "Stripped, the nudity-fueled game show."

As parents, we have to monitor and limit what our children

watch because TV can easily lure them into an insidious world that perverts reality, a world where wrong is portrayed as right, and right is portrayed as wrong. Few programs have characters who are good role models, and religion is typically presented in a negative light. Rather than being a source of guidance, TV exalts decadent lifestyles. This is something I learned the hard way.

When our four daughters were young, I'd come home from work and often find them huddled around the tube, gasping in disbelief, cheering and laughing. It was like the bleachers at Yankee Stadium during the playoffs after too much Budweiser.

They were watching Jerry Springer, which like other tabloid shows popularizes degenerate behavior. Reality TV accelerated that trend with programs like *Jersey Shore*, *Teen Mom*, *Mob Wives*, *Housewives of (pick a city) Miami*, *Beverly Hills* and *New York*, and the inimitable *Keeping Up With the Kardashians*.

I warned my daughters repeatedly, but no one listened so I resorted to self-righteous violence ... and tore the cable box out of

the wall. It felt so liberating I wanted to break down my neighbor's door and tear his cable box out too. The screen went dark. There were tears and screams. What had Evil Daddy done?

"Are we supposed to be Amish?" someone hissed.

"What's wrong with that?" I replied.

As a consolation, I went to Wal-Mart and bought a set of rabbit ears, which gave my daughters access to two channels, some news, *Leave It to Beaver* reruns and the weather. Cable-service salespeople still show up at our door and gasp when they discover we don't own a TV. They think we're eccentric and even worse, un-American. Which is probably true.

Save your family. Turn off your TV. Try doing something radical ... and pray together. If you don't protect your children and yourselves from the destructive influence of television, it will seep into your lives, and soon things you were convinced were immoral will seem acceptable and fashionable. But by then, it will be too late.

Follow the Pope's example. Switch off the TV. ■



HONDA

By **Curtiss*Ryan**

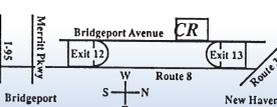
www.curtissryan.com




ONE OF CT'S LARGEST VOLUME HONDA DEALERS

CT'S FIRST ESTABLISHED HONDA DEALER • APRIL 1973

- Open All Day Saturday for Service & Parts
- Senior Citizen Discount



333 Bridgeport Ave • Shelton
M-Th 9am-9pm • Fri 9am-6pm • Sat 9am-5pm

CALL CURTISS RYAN AT

1-800-523-4190

203-929-1484

NEW & USED VEHICLES • SALES • SERVICE • PARTS • BODY SHOP

21ST ANNUAL SAINT MARY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

FAMILY FAIR

566 Elm Street, Stamford



Family times are fun times

June 22-25

Opens:
Thursday
and Friday
6 pm

and
Saturday
and Sunday
5 pm

midway by www.tufanoamusement.com

Bits and Pieces

GOSPEL OF LIFE SOCIETY is on a recess for the months of July and August. For more info, contact John Juhasz: 203.762.3661 or juhaszjw@optonline.net.

TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS is celebrated at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish, Brookfield, the first Sun. of each month (**July 2**) at 4 pm. For more info, call the parish: 203.775.5117.

FAMILY SUMMER RETREAT, a vacation to grow closer as a family will be held the week of **July 2-7**, at the Miramar Retreat Center, Duxbury, Mass. The goal of the retreat is to bring families closer to God and one

another through fun, prayer, communication and affirmation. For more info, contact Deacon John or Peggy: 845.621.7000 or StarofSeaRetreat@gmail.com, or visit www.catholicfamilyretreats.com.

JOIN IN PRAYING the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary for Persecuted Christians from your home/car/office the first Tues. of every month (**July 4**) at 7 pm. How? Before 7 pm, call 877.216.5269 and type in the pin number 96869.

DIVORCED AND SEPARATED Catholics are invited to join "Hearts Renewed," a support group for divorced

or separated men and women. Meetings are held in Fairfield on the first and third Fri. of every month (**July 7 and 21**) at 7:30 pm. For more info and for directions, call Bette: 203.338.0503 or Peggy: 203.834.1287.

BASKETBALL CAMP for boys and girls in grades 1 thru 9 will be held on the campus of St. Lawrence Parish, Shelton, the weeks of **July 10-14** and **17-21** in conjunction with Dribble Drive Basketball. For more info, contact Dennis Kelly: 203.668.9370 or dribbledrivebasketball@gmail.com. For details, check out dribbledrivebasketball.net.

HOLY HOUR: Catholic Young Adults of Greater Danbury will gather on Tues., **July 11**, at 6:45 pm for a Praise and Worship Holy Hour at Sacred Heart Parish, 46 Stone St., Danbury, followed by a social. This event is open to all ages. For more info, email catholic.ya.danbury@gmail.com.

CARNIVAL OF FUN at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Riverside, will take place Tues.-Sat., **July 11-15**, from 6-11 pm. Great food, rides, games, raffles. Live entertainment nightly; dining under the big tent. Bracelets every night. For info, go to www.stcath.org or call 203.637.3661.

SUMMER BOOK CLUB: offered for five Thurs., **July 13** thru **August 10**, from 10-11 am in St. James Parish Center, Stratford. The selection is "Oneing," a collection of sixteen essays about ongoing conversion. Authors include Paula D'Arcy, Richard Rohr and Cynthia Bourgeault. For more info or to register, contact the parish: 203.375.5887.

"COME AND SEE" if you are being called to a vocation in the Secular Franciscan Order. The Secular Franciscan Holy Spirit Fraternity invites everyone to St. Anthony of Padua Church, Fairfield, on Sat., **July 15**, at 9:30 am to celebrate Mass with Msgr. Ernest Esposito. There will be a social and meeting after Mass. There will be no meeting in August. Next meeting will be Sat., **Sept. 16**, same time and place. For more info, call Pat Heile, OFS: 203.255.8801 or phile5713@aol.com.

PROJECT RACHEL: Are you or someone you know hurting from a past abortion experience? There is help and hope. Project Rachel is offering an

EWTN NEWSCASTER TO SPEAK AT MEN'S CONFERENCE Award-winning journalist and best-selling author Raymond Arroyo of EWTN News will be a featured speaker at the 10th annual Connecticut Catholic Men's Conference on Sat., **Oct. 21**, at St. Paul Catholic High School in Bristol. The day-long program will also include a presentation by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano. Father James Sullivan, priest chaplain of the conference, said the event offers men valuable information and tools they can use to become better role models in their families and in society. Throughout the day, there will be a program of dynamic Catholic speakers, opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The conference will close with a vigil Mass at which Archbishop Leonard P. Blair will deliver the homily. For more info, visit ctcatholicmen.org or call 860.484.7950. To contact the conference directly, email ctcatholicmensconference@gmail.com or call: 860.484.7950.

Entering Canaan Day of Prayer and Healing on Sat., **July 15**, for women who are suffering from a past abortion. For more info or a confidential registration, contact us: 203.416.1619 or projectrachel@diobpt.org.

S'MORES AND STARS: Catholic Young Adults of Greater Danbury (ages 18-35), will gather on Fri., **July 21**, at St. Ann Parish, 181 Clapboard Ridge Rd., Danbury. Join other young adults to watch the stars and to enjoy some Yummy S'mores over a fire pit! For more info, email catholic.ya.danbury@gmail.com.

WEEK OF DIRECTED PRAYER will be offered **July 29-August 5**, at St. James Parish, Stratford. Make a retreat with-

out leaving home or workplace! Meet for communal prayer at the beginning and end of retreat, with individual meetings scheduled with a spiritual director during the week according to your availability. For more info, call the parish: 203.375.5887.

HOLY HOUR: Catholic Young Adults of Greater Danbury will gather on Tues., **August 1**, at 6:45 pm for a Praise and Worship Holy Hour at Sacred Heart Parish, Danbury, followed by a social. This event is open to all ages. For more info, email catholic.ya.danbury@gmail.com.

EWTN's FREE FAMILY CELEBRATION in New England will be held the week-



27th U.S. Catholic China Bureau National Conference August 11-13, 2017

St. John's University, Jamaica, Queens, New York City
Conference Theme: "Experience of the China Church in the 21st Century"

Friday Evening Keynote: Archbishop Eugene Nugent, Holy See Study Mission Director, Hong Kong 2001-2010.
"Reconciliation in the Church: Experiences of the Church in China"

Saturday: Father Joseph Zhang, Biblical Scholar from China
Dr. Richard Madsen, Director of UC - Fudan Center
Author of *China's Catholics*

Register at: www.uscatholicchina.org
Select from full Weekend Housing or Local Commuter Packages

We are the proud printers of the
Fairfield County Catholic for the past 20 years.



Newspapers
Publications
Shoppers
Catalogs
Magazines
Directories
Coupon Books
College Course Catalogs
Business & Financial
Periodicals
Free Standing Inserts
Advertising Supplements

205 Spring Hill Road, Trumbull CT 06611
203.261.2548
www.trumbullprinting.com

Call us for a free quote

Courtney Honda
the INTELLIGENT CHOICE

Rated #1 in New England
in Total Customer Satisfaction
Year after Year

767 Bridgeport Avenue (Rt. 1) • Milford, Connecticut 06040
203.877.2888 • courtneyhonda.com

Bits and Pieces

end of **Sept. 9 & 10** at the DCU Center in Worcester, MA! Be renewed in your faith with inspirational talks by your favorite EWTN hosts as well as opportunities for Holy Mass, Confession and Adoration. For more info, go to www.ewtn.com/familycelibration.

BEREAVEMENT Support Group will offer a free-month session at St. Jude Parish, Monroe, beginning **Wed., Sept. 13**, from 2:30-4 pm. The group will meet twice a month on Wed. from Sept. to Nov., then once a month Dec. through May, 2018. For more info, call the parish: 203.261.6404.

BEREAVEMENT Support Group will meet at St. Stephen Parish, Trumbull, for a series of 10 weekly meetings with experienced counselors beginning **Thurs., Sept. 14**, from 4-5:30 pm. Registration needed. For more info or to register, call the parish: 203.268.6217.

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA Council 141, which meets at St. George Parish in Bridgeport, will resume its monthly meetings on **Sun., Sept. 17**, with Mass at 12 noon and meeting following. For more info, call 203.878.0519.

MOMs+DADs prayer/support group for those with Down

syndrome, their family and friends will not meet during the summer. The group meets the third **Thurs.** of every month starting **Thurs., Sept. 21**, at 7:30 pm at St. Mary Parish, Norwalk. For more info, contact strapostolate@optimum.net.

CRAFT FAIR & BAZAAR for St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish, Brookfield, is now accepting vendor applications for the **Sat., Nov. 11** fair. Application deadline is **Mon., Oct. 16**. Vendor applications are available at stmarguerite.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/CraftFair.NEWVendorLetter.2017.pdf.

50th REUNION for Notre Dame High School Class of 1967 (Boys and Girls), will be held the weekend of **Oct. 27-29**. For more info, contact Notre Dame's Alumni Office: tmarzik@notredame.org.

PILGRIMAGE to the major shrines of Portugal, Spain and France, an 11-day journey, will depart from New York on **Sun., Sept. 24**, returning **Wed., Oct. 4**. Price: \$3,175/person includes airfare, taxes, hotels, breakfast and dinner daily, sightseeing, transportation to JFK, and gratuity. For more info, contact Fr. Marcel Saint Jean: 203.434.7208 or 203.268.8695, email marcel-saintjean@gmail.com.

saintjean@gmail.com.

PILGRIMAGE to Fatima, Lourdes and Barcelona, **Sun., Oct. 1-Tues., Oct. 10**. Price: \$3,548/person double occupancy includes airfare, taxes, hotels, breakfasts, one lunch, and dinner. For more info, contact Fr. Cyrus Bartolome: 203.652.1155.

ENCOURAGE apostolate for friends and family of loved ones

with same sex attractions or gender ID confusion holds confidential meetings monthly. For more info email EncourageNorwalk@gmail.com.

COURAGE apostolate provides pastoral care and support for men and women who experience same-sex attractions and want to live chaste lives. Confidential meetings are held

weekly. For more info call 203.803.1564 or email Courage@diobpt.org.

MASS CARDS are available from the diocesan Mission Office for all intentions. The donations support missionaries throughout the world. If you are interested in purchasing a Mass card, call Elaine Bissenden in the Mission Office: 203.416.1447.

“Holy Is His Name”

DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT

Youth Rally

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19 – 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM

ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL | 2320 HUNTINGTON TPKE | TRUMBULL, CT 06611

FEATURING HIGH ENERGY AND INSPIRING SPEAKERS AND MUSICIANS

DOM QUAGLIA

SARAH KROGER QUAGLIA

BISHOP FRANK J. CAGGIANO

Cost: \$40

ALL TEENS IN 8TH-12TH GRADE ARE WELCOME

FUN AND INSPIRATIONAL TALKS | SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION | ADORATION | MUSIC AND GAMES | MASS

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR YOUTH MINISTER OR PASTOR OR CALL EVAN PSENCIK AT 203-416-1649 OR EMAIL: EPSENCIK@DIOBPT.ORG

WWW.THECHURCHNEEDSYOU.ORG

FAN THE FIRE

Make It OR BREAK IT

COLLEGE FRESHMEN RETREAT

YOU ARE INVITED TO

ST. PIUS X

FAIRFIELD CT ON

AUGUST 5TH

FROM 9AM - 9PM

FOR A DAY OF FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP

CURRENT COLLEGE STUDENTS, CAMPUS MINISTERS, & YOUTH MINISTERS WILL LEAD A RETREAT DAY FOR INCOMING COLLEGE STUDENTS CENTERED AROUND LIVING OUT YOUR FAITH AFTER HIGH SCHOOL.

Please register here:
<https://goo.gl/forms/DEIPUiklp5YAZipg2>

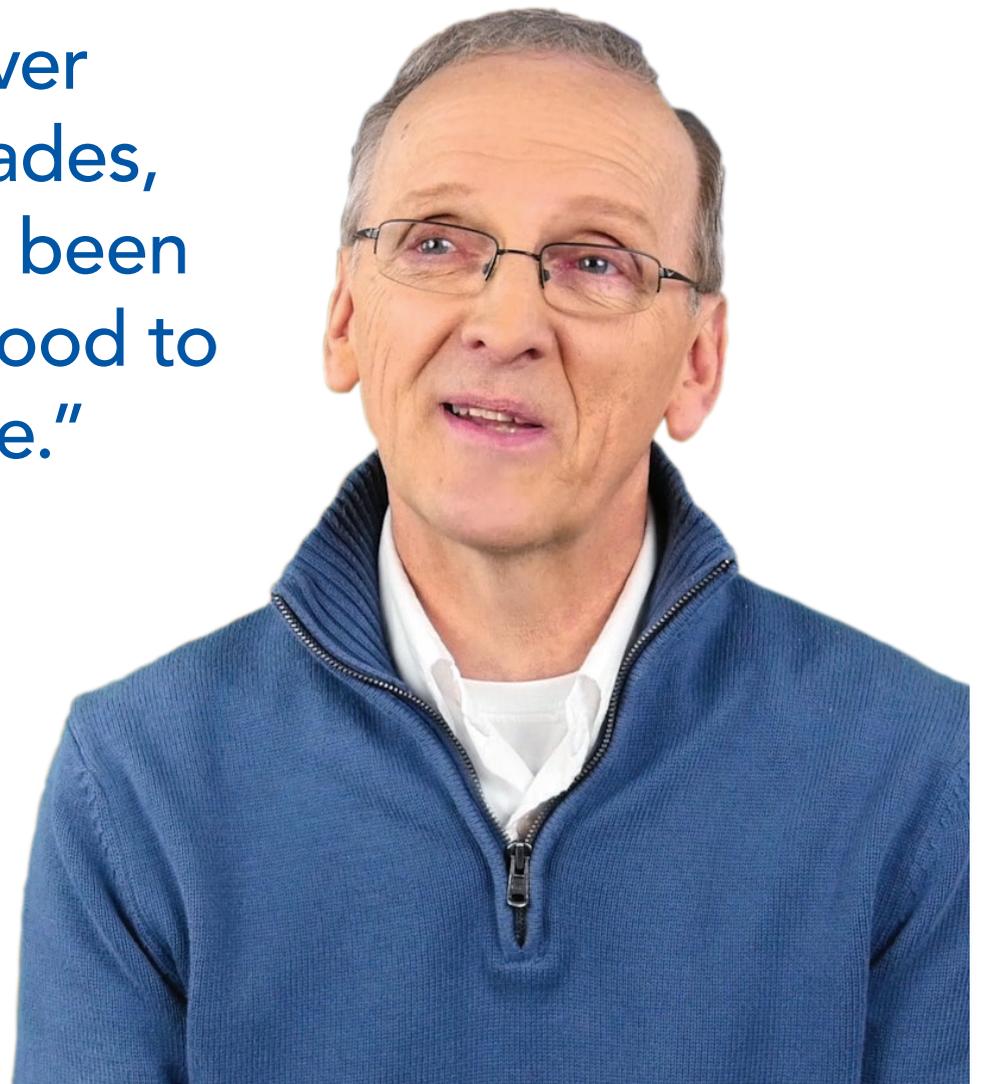
Or visit our Facebook Page: facebook.com/makeitDOB

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS JULY 15, 2017

gentler hands / SHARPER MINDS

“They’re on the cutting edge of medical technology with an amazingly caring and compassionate staff. Over the years, over the decades, St. Vincent’s has always been there for me. And it’s good to know they always will be.”

TOM
Monroe, CT



Find a doctor who **understands you** as a person, and a patient.

stvincents.org

St. Vincent's
Medical Center





Congratulations to the Class of 2017!

Pre-kindergarten students of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School are moving upwards to the wider school world. The proud women in the Caroline House ESL program have mastered the complexity of the English language. At every level, graduation is a time for celebration.

In this issue, *Fairfield County Catholic* recognizes the top scholars of diocesan and private Catholic high schools. While we focus on these students, we offer congratulations to all graduates, whatever their age and achievements. You earned it.

Immaculate, Danbury
Immaculate High School graduated 89 seniors on May 31 at Western Connecticut State University's O'Neill Center in Danbury. This year, Immaculate had an enrollment of 471 students. The graduating class was offered over \$19 million in grants, scholarships and awards.

Valedictorian Nicole Bao DiMauro earned the 2016 Governor's Scholar Award and is a National Merit Scholarship finalist. An AP Scholar, she was a member of the National Honor Society and the Drama Club. The senior captain of the varsity tennis team, she volunteered with the Mustang All-Sports Club at Immaculate. She founded a club, Hearts Around the World, to support medical programs in poor countries; has performed in school drama plays; and received Immaculate's President's Volunteer Service Award. At her home parish of St. Gregory the Great in Danbury, she was not only a member of the youth group and a volunteer at the parish's Vacation Bible School—Nicole became a member of the Synod Task Force at

St. Gregory's.

She will attend Northeastern University in Boston, Mass., this fall, where she plans to major in bioengineering.



IMMACULATE HIGH SCHOOL, DANBURY – Nicole Bao DiMauro, valedictorian; Martha Haddad, salutatorian

Martha Haddad, Immaculate's salutatorian, has been garnering science awards since middle school. She holds awards from the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair; I-SWEEEP International Science Competition; GENIUS Olympiad International Science

Competition; and the Connecticut State Science and Engineering Fair. Martha has received honors from the Sigma Xi International Scientific Research Community



and the Society of Women Engineers Award for Excellence in Math & Natural Sciences.

A Key Club member, she was in the National Honor Society and was editor of the Newspaper Club. She was a youth group member and religious education teacher at St. Ann Parish

in Danbury, and was an officer in the National Association for Melkite Youth.

Martha will attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Boston, where she will major in chemical-biological engineering.

"We are very proud of all our graduating seniors. They are prepared to be leaders of change, leaders of the future," said Mary Maloney, president of Immaculate High School. "Nicole is well deserving of this distinction as valedictorian of the Class of 2017. In addition to maintaining a GPA average of 4.81, Nicole is diligent, respectful, kind and faith-filled and has a natural curiosity. Martha is an AP Scholar with Honor, a member of the Math League, is a student ambassador, and has been recognized in a number of music competitions. She excels in all that she does."

Kolbe Cathedral, Bridgeport

Kolbe Cathedral High School held graduation for its 75 seniors in St. Augustine Cathedral on June 1. One hundred percent of

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

Vals and Sals

VALS AND SALS FROM PAGE 25

the graduates were accepted into college, and the graduation class earned \$12.1 million in scholarships. The school's total enrollment is 304 students.

Kolbe's valedictorian is

Christopher Lopez, a graduate of the Catholic Academy from the St. Raphael and St. Augustine Academies. He has been at the top of his class throughout all four years, attaining honors and



KOLBE HIGH SCHOOL, BRIDGEPORT – Christopher Lopez, valedictorian; Destiny Mclellan, salutatorian



taking the most challenging classes offered, including AP classes. Christopher also challenged himself by taking college courses at Housatonic Community College. He has been a peer tutor and an ambassador for the school.

Christopher will attend the University of Connecticut on a presidential scholarship, where he will be majoring in biomedical engineering.

Salutatorian Destiny Mclellan is a graduate of High Horizons. Destiny has excelled academically throughout her four years of high school. She further challenged herself by taking college courses at Housatonic Community College and Monroe College in New Rochelle, N.Y., with which Kolbe has a partnership for students to enroll for free college courses on Saturdays. Destiny is a member of the National and Spanish Honor Societies. In addition to excelling academically, Destiny has been involved in the

community. She has been a member of SADD, a peer leader and tutor. Destiny also helped form a writing club at Kolbe Cathedral, where students can receive academic support or explore creative writing projects.

"Both of these students exemplify our 'Work Hard and be Nice' motto," says Principal Jo-Anne Jakab. "In addition, they are caring, compassionate and humble. While maintaining top honors throughout high school, both have demonstrated concern for others, reaching out to tutor others and providing encouragement and support. They fulfill the school's mission to empower our learning community with knowledge, skills and Gospel values."

Notre Dame, Fairfield

Notre Dame Catholic High School in Fairfield held its 57th graduation ceremony the evening

serving as lacrosse captain this year. A member of the National and Spanish Honor Societies, Liv has been very active in Campus Ministry and travelled to Appalachia with Notre Dame again this June. Liv spent a semester abroad as a sophomore studying in Rome.

Olivia will attend the University of Michigan.

Notre Dame's principal Chris Cipriano said, "Liv is the total package—a phenomenal student, a gifted artist, a person committed to serving others. She will be missed very much."

Celine Samrin of Shelton has been named the salutatorian of the Class of 2017. She is a member of St. Nicholas Church in Bridgeport. Celine's resume includes participation in the Key, Spanish and Care Clubs, Campus Ministry and both the National and Spanish Honor Societies.



NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL, FAIRFIELD – Olivia Keden, valedictorian; Celine Samrin, salutatorian



GRADUATE INFO SESSION

JULY 12

- Business
- Engineering
- Arts & Sciences
- Education & Allied Professions

Fairfield.edu/OpenHouse



of June 2. The Class of 2017 is comprised of 113 graduates, representing 21 cities and towns, as well as Spain, China and Brazil. Notre Dame has a total enrollment of 501 students.

Olivia Keden of Easton has been named the valedictorian of the Class of 2017. She is a member of the Greenfield Hill Congregationalist Church, where she serves as a junior deacon. Olivia has served in leadership roles throughout her Notre Dame career, as freshman and sophomore class vice president and as junior and senior class president. She was an active member of the Drama Club and had leading roles in several spring musicals. She played on both the varsity volleyball and lacrosse teams including

Celine has served as president of the National Honor Society and vice president of the Spanish Honor Society, in addition to her leadership in the Spanish Club.

Celine will be attending Sacred Heart University in the fall, where she plans to double major in accounting and finance.

"Celine has worked very hard in and out of the classroom since her first day at Notre Dame," said Principal Cipriano. "She has a tremendous work ethic and will undoubtedly be extremely successful in college."

St. Joseph, Trumbull

St. Joseph High School graduated 183 students on June 3 at Dalling Field on the school's campus. Trumbull First

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 28



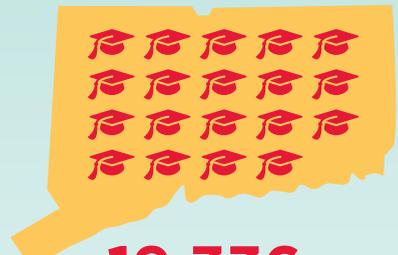
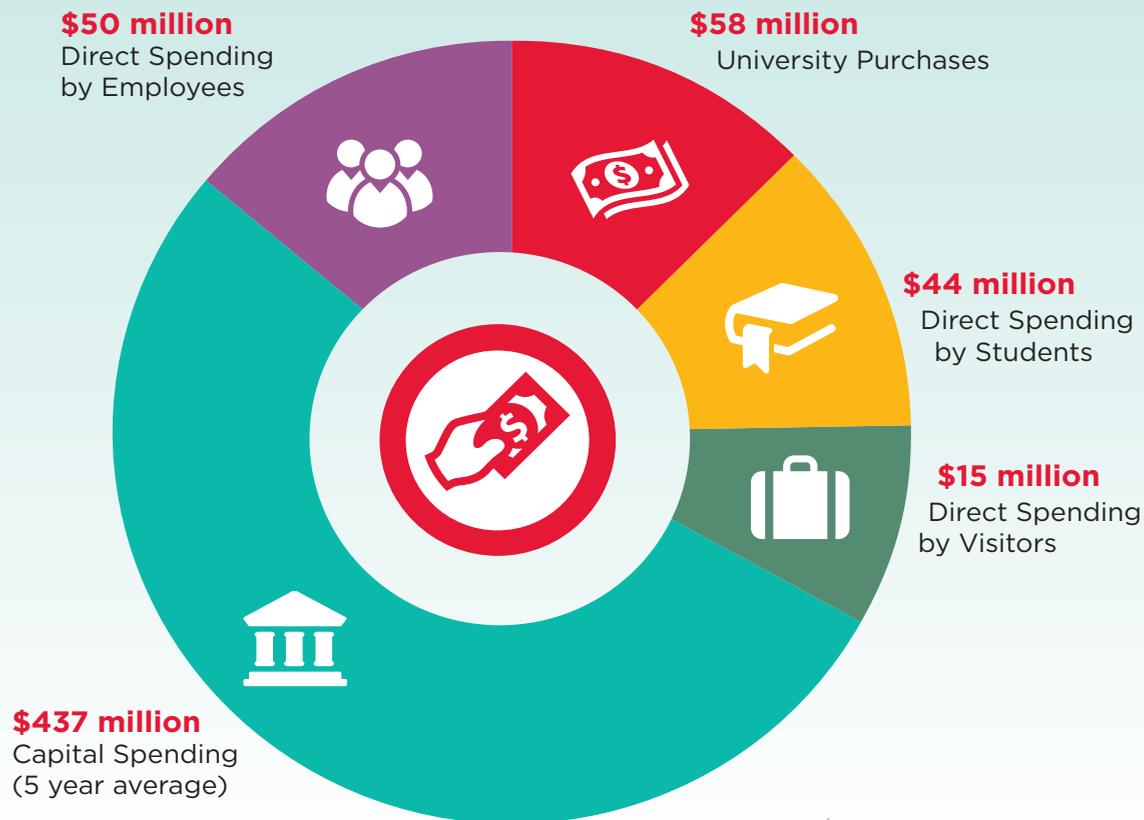
Fairfield University

Annual Economic Impact in Fairfield County Over \$1 Billion

\$604 million

TOTAL DIRECT SPENDING IN FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Direct spending is defined as the amount of money spent directly by the university, university employees, students, and visitors.



19,336

FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY ALUMNI call Connecticut "home"



7,348

JOBS CREATED by Fairfield University bringing opportunity to the region

\$407 million

INDUCED SPENDING IN FAIRFIELD COUNTY

The induced economic impact is the additional employment and expenditures of local industries that result because of direct spending.



Fairfield UNIVERSITY

The total economic impact of Fairfield University in 2014 was measured in terms of the direct and induced economic impact of its activity in the state and region.

Vals and Sals

VALS AND SALS FROM PAGE 26

Selectman Timothy Herbst was in attendance.

Valedictorian Erin Egan Welch is a member of the State Student Advisory Council on Education and represents St.

Joe's on the Trumbull Business Education Initiative Board. She is a member of the International Thespian Honor Society and has played in productions of the SJ Drama Club. An AP



SAINT JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL, TRUMBULL – Erin Egan Welch, valedictorian; Grace Jennifer Scully, salutatorian

Scholar with Honor, she belongs to the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society, English Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. A parishioner at St. Stephen Parish in Trumbull, Erin has been president of the St. Joe's Irish Club for the past two years and was named Miss Shamrock 2017 for the Greater Bridgeport Saint Patrick's Day Parade. Erin also volunteered with the Special Olympics golf program and is a Trumbull United Top Soccer buddy.

Erin has enrolled in the Honors Program at Boston College where she will major in Biology and pursue a career in Neuroscience.

Salutatorian Grace Jennifer Scully is a member of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Shelton. She is a member of the Spanish Honor Society; treasurer of the National English Honor Society; co-president of the Mu Alpha

Theta Math Honor Society and a member of the National Honor Society. Grace is an AP Scholar with Honor and was co-captain of the Girls Varsity Swim Team. She has worked in the writing center and as a math tutor, is a Student Ambassador, a member of the Special Olympics swim and golf programs and a participant in the Midnight Run to NYC. Grace volunteered as a swim instructor at the Valley YMCA in Ansonia and became a member of their Membership & Marketing Committee as the "teenage voice."

Grace is a recipient of Excellence in Mathematics and Science Award from Fairfield University School of Engineering and Sikorsky Aircraft. She will attend the University of Connecticut this fall as a member of the Honors program, receiving the Presidential Scholarship Award.

"Erin Welch and Grace Scully

represent the best of the very best of St. Joseph High School. Not only are they each academic stand-outs, but their leadership and involvement in our vibrant community has been extraordinary," said Dr. James Keane, St. Joseph's principal.

Trinity, Stamford

In one of the most challenging classes in many years, Trinity Catholic High School is proud to announce that they have two valedictorians and two salutatorians for the Class of 2017. Graduation for the 121 members of the Class of '17 was held on June 3. The school had a total of 421 students this year.

Shannon Daine and Stephen Caponetti are co-valedictorians of the Trinity Catholic High School Class of 2017.

Shannon Daine, a member of St. Catherine of Sienna Parish in Greenwich, was on the Trinity Catholic Diving Team for four



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CLASS OF 2017

St Joseph High School, Trumbull, Connecticut

2017 College & University Acceptances

American University
Arcadia University
Arizona State University
Assumption College
Barry University
Becker College
Belmont Abbey College
Bentley University
Berklee College of Music
Binghamton University
Boston College
Bowling Green State University
Bridgewater State University
Brock University

Bryant University
Butler University
Caldwell University
California Institute of Technology
Canisius University
Cazenovia College
Central Connecticut State University
Champlain College
Chapman University
Clarion University of Pennsylvania
Clark University
Clarkson University
Coastal Carolina University
College of Charleston

College of the Holy Cross
College of New Rochelle
Colorado State University
Connecticut College
Curry College
Daemen College
Dean College
Dickinson College
Drew University
Drexel University
East Carolina University
Eastern Connecticut State University
Emerson College
Emmanuel College

Endicott College
Fairfield University
Fairleigh Dickinson University
Florida Atlantic University
Fordham University
Franklin and Marshall College
Franklin Pierce University
Gateway Community College
The George Washington University
Gettysburg College
Hampden-Sydney College
High Point University
Hofstra University
Housatonic Community College
Indiana University at
Bloomington
Dean College
Iona College
The University of Iowa
Ithaca College
Jacksonville University
James Madison University
Johnson & Wales University (Charlotte)
Johnson & Wales University (Providence)
Kean University
Keene State College
King's College
La Salle University
Lafayette College
Lasell College
Long Island University, Brooklyn
Long Island University, Post
Loyola Marymount University
Loyola University, Chicago
Loyola University, Maryland
Manhattan College
Manhattanville College
Mannes College of Music
Marist College
Marquette University
Marymount University
Merrimack College
Miami University, Oxford
Michigan State University
Middlebury College
Mitchell College
Monmouth University
Mount Ida College
Mount Saint Mary College
Mount Saint Mary's University
New England Conservatory
Newbury College
North Carolina State University
Northeastern University
Norwalk Community College

Occidental College
Pace University, New York City
Pace University, Westchester
Pennsylvania State University
Pepperdine University
Philadelphia University
Providence College
Quinnipiac University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhode Island College
Robert Morris University
Rochester Institute of Technology
Roger Williams University
Rowan University
Rutgers University
Sacred Heart University
Saint Anselm College
Saint Joseph's University
Saint Louis University
Saint Michael's College
Salem State University
Salve Regina University
School of Visual Arts
Seton Hall University
Sewanee: The University of the South
Siena College
Simmons College
Skidmore College
Southern Connecticut State University
Springfield College
St John's University
St Vincent's College
Stevens Institute of Technology
Stonehill College
Stony Brook University
Suffolk University
SUNY Buffalo State College
Syracuse University
Texas A&M University
The Catholic University of America
The College of Saint Rose
The New School - All Divisions
The University of Akron
The University of Alabama
The University of Arizona
The University of Iowa
The University of Scranton
The University of Tampa
The University of West Georgia
Towson University
University of New York
University of Bridgeport
University of British Columbia
University of California, Davis

University of California, Irvine
University of California, Riverside
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of Colorado at Boulder
University of Connecticut
University of Connecticut at Stamford
University of Dayton
University of Delaware
University of Hartford
University of Illinois
University of Indianapolis
University of Kentucky
University of La Verne
University of Maine
University of Maryland
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
University of Miami
University of New England
University of New Hampshire at Durham
University of New Haven
University of Notre Dame
University of Pennsylvania
University of Rochester
University of South Carolina
University of South Florida, Tampa
University of Toronto
Undergraduate Only
University of Vermont
University of Virginia
University of Washington
Valdosta State University
Vanderbilt University
Yassar College
Villanova University
Virginia Tech
Washington and Lee University
Wentworth Institute of Technology
West Virginia University
Western Connecticut State University
Western New England University
William Jewell College
William Paterson University of New Jersey
Woodbury University
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Worcester State University
Xavier University
York College of Pennsylvania



Vals and Sals

years and was named the CT Class S State Diving Champion during her sophomore and junior years, the all-FCIAC Diving Team for four years and the All-State Diving Team for three years. An active member of the Business Club and the National Honor Society, she received the CAS/CIAC Scholar Athlete Award, the Smith College Book Award and earned the FCIAC Scholar Athlete Award four years in a row. Shannon spent hours throughout high school volunteering at Kids in Crisis.

Shannon will be attending Villanova University in Pennsylvania where she will pursue a degree in political science. She hopes to become a lawyer.

Stephen Caponetti, a member of St. Cecilia Parish in Stamford, is a National Honor Society Member, was a four-year member of the Varsity Soccer Team where he served two years as captain. In addition, he played lacrosse for three years and has played in the Stamford Youth Soccer League.



TRINITY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, STAMFORD – Shannon Daine and Stephen Caponetti, co-valedictorians; Rachel Nelson and Johanna Ruzzi, co-salutatorian

Stephen held lead roles in school dramas and musicals as a member of the Crusader Players Group and served as a Student Ambassador. He has received the FCASSP Scholar Leader Award, the Halo Award for Best Performance by a Leading Actor, the Excellence in Math and Physical Education awards,

FCIAC Scholar Athlete, Joseph F Carrigan Integrity Award and the Mickey Lione Jr. Award for Youth Excellence. He was named to the Stamford Magazine Top Ten Teens to Watch.

Stephen plans to major in chemical and bio-molecular engineering at the University of Maryland. He hopes to pursue

a career as a pharmaceutical scientist.

The 2017 co-salutatorians of Trinity Catholic are Rachel Nelson and Johanna Ruzzi.

Rachel Nelson is a member of Holy Spirit Parish in Stamford. Rachel is a National Honor Society Member and a Tri-M Honor Society Member. A

FCIAC Scholar Athlete, she has served as a Student Ambassador, belonged to the Multi-Cultural Club and was a Varsity cheerleader. She volunteers as a coach with the Stamford Youth Foundation and also has volunteered at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center as well as the Maritime

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 30



Vals and Sals

VALS AND SALS FROM PAGE 29

Aquarium. She is an All-Star cheerleader at Gold Coast All Stars, where her team is nationally ranked in the top ten.

This fall, Rachel will be attending the University of South Carolina.

Johanna Ruzzi is a member of the National Honor Society, has served as a Student Ambassador, Drama Club stage manager, Multicultural Club coordinator and Student Council delegate. A member of St. Leo Parish in Stamford, she was president of the Teenage Peaceworks Club, as well as Campus Ministry and Student Council, and has volunteered at the Catholic Heart Work Camp Mission, Voices against Brain Cancer and Crusaders for Life. She acted as chair for Red Cross blood drives, and was a member of the Yearbook Club, Animal Outreach Club, Ears for Years and the Outdoor Club.

Johanna was accepted early decision at the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va.

“These students have served as role models and ambassadors of Trinity Catholic High School,” says Principal Dave Williams. “We are so proud of them and wish them continued success.”

Private High Schools

In addition to diocesan schools, students from Fairfield County are among the top scholars in private Catholic schools in this area. We are pleased to recognize their academic excellence.

Convent of the Sacred Heart, Greenwich

The 74 members of the Class of 2017 held graduation ceremonies held on June 2. Sacred Heart Greenwich has an enrollment



CONVENT OF THE SACRED HEART HIGH SCHOOL, GREENWICH – Ava Vanech, valedictorian and Jade Cohen and Kathleen Danahy, co-salutatorians

of 731, which includes students from age three in its early childhood center through grade 12 in the Upper School.

Valedictorian Ava Vanech of Greenwich was co-editor-in-chief of Sacred Heart’s literary magazine *Perspectives*, a co-captain on the Speech and Debate team, and a singer in the Madrigals choir. She competed on the track and field team and served as a Eucharistic Minister. Ava, a member of St. Michael Parish in Greenwich, started a community service organization called the Alzheimer’s Youth Alliance. She has received the Rensselaer Medal Award for Achievement in Mathematics and Science, was named an AP Scholar with Honor, and received the Alzheimer’s Association Women’s Champion Distinction. Ava worked with premedical studies undergraduates and medical school students at the Yale School of Medicine over the summer of 2016 and completed research on Childhood Absence Epilepsy. She was awarded a Regeneration Science Talent Search Research Report Badge for the paper she wrote on her summer research.

Ava will attend Yale University this fall, where she will major in molecular, cellular, and developmental biology.

CHS has co-salutatorians this year, Jade Cohen of Greenwich and Kathleen Danahy of Yorktown Heights, N.Y.

St. Michael’s Parish is proud to be home to another of Sacred Heart’s top scholars: Jade Cohen. At Sacred Heart, Jade served as secretary of the Barat Foundation, an organization that allocates grants focused on aiding children. In addition, she was content and opinions editor of

the school’s newspaper. She was a speech captain for the Speech and Debate team, secretary of her class, and a member of the Admissions Committee and Future Alumnae Association. Jade was a member of the cross-country, swim, lacrosse, and field hockey teams.

She shadowed a cardiologist at the New York University Langone Medical Center Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory, during which she realized biomedical engineering is the ideal application of her interests in math and science.

Jade will attend Washington University in St. Louis, Mo.

Co-salutatorian Kathleen Danahy, a parishioner at St. Patrick Parish in Yorktown Heights, N.Y., has served as a

ed into the Cum Laude Society. She received the Excellence in Mathematics and the Natural Sciences Award by the Society of Women Engineers. In addition, she participated in volleyball and cross-country teams. Kathleen, who shadowed an emergency room physician on the night shift, will be attending Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, where she will pursue a degree in medicine, specifically immunology studies.

“This is a talented class with many wonderful gifts, which they freely shared with the community as artists, poets, scholars, scientists, journalists, and athletes,” said Head of School Pamela Juan Hayes. “I have great faith in them and in their future as leaders in our global society.”



FAIRFIELD PREP HIGH SCHOOL, FAIRFIELD – Scholars Kevin Gallagher and Brendan Flynn

Congratulations
TO THE CLASS OF 2017
from Notre Dame High School of Fairfield



“With intellect and integrity, dedication and confidence, our graduates are ready to make their mark as tomorrow’s leaders.”

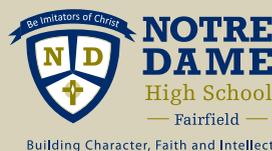
—CHRISTOPHER CIPRIANO, PRINCIPAL

SAVE THE DATE

FALL ADMISSIONS
OPEN HOUSE

Sunday,
October 22

220 Jefferson Street
Fairfield, CT 06825
Admissions Office 203.372.6521
notredame.org



Building Character, Faith and Intellect

Fairfield Prep

Fairfield Prep’s 75th commencement took place June 4 in Alumni Hall at Fairfield University. The graduating class of 2017 included 220 students. As part of a Jesuit high school tradition, the graduates wore white

Eucharistic minister at CSH, has been involved with the Big and Little Sister and Peer Leadership programs, and started an Upper School club to raise awareness for Lyme Disease. She was named a National Merit Commended Student and induct-

June 2017

Vals and Sals

tuxedo dinner jackets.

This is a special year as Prep celebrates its 75th anniversary as a Jesuit, Catholic school of excellence, founded in 1942. Students come to Fairfield Prep from over 50 towns and cities. Although Fairfield Prep does not categorize its scholars, Prep is pleased to recognize Kevin Gallagher and Brendan Flynn for their outstand-

the annual three day Freshman Retreat," says Prep's principal, Dr. Robert Perotta.

Brendan Flynn has earned no grade lower than A in his Prep years. He is a National Merit Commended Student, AP Scholar and Maxima Cum Laude winner for the past three years on the National Latin Exam. He plays baseball on

receiving recognition for more than 100 hours of service projects

Rachelle Ambroise of Stratford, a well-rounded scholar-athlete, earned the Performing Arts Scholar-Artist Award, the Summa Scholar Award and the Rensselaer Medal Award. She is the first female pianist at the French Speaking Baptist Church of Bridgeport, and part of the symphonic orchestra, percussion, and jazz band at Luralton Hall. She was active in student government and took first place in the Sikorsky STEM Challenge Engineering Team. Rachelle is a member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish National Honor Society. She has volunteered at the Beth-El Soup Kitchen, the Ludlow Center for Health & Rehabilitation, and Vacation Bible School.

Rachelle was accepted into six Ivy League Schools (Harvard, Yale, University of Pennsylvania, Cornell, Brown and Dartmouth). She will be attending Harvard, with a major in chemistry and pre-med with the career goal of becoming a cardiothoracic surgeon.

Salutatorian Olivia Rubin of Stamford was a Summa Schola for the Archdiocese of Hartford and a National Merit Semifinalist, and has taken both gold and silver awards in the National Latin Exam. A member of the Debate Team and involved in Youth and Government, she was part of the Healing Shawls Knitters. Olivia took a Yale summer program in astrophysics and earned the Yale Book Award.

Olivia will attend the University of Notre Dame in Indiana this fall, majoring in business analytics.

Luralton Hall is proud to announce that Hope Hottois, a parishioner at St. Jude Parish in Monroe, has received the Catherine McAuley Award, the highest honor bestowed upon a graduating senior. This award is presented to the senior who has demonstrated a commitment to living the Gospel and Mercy values as a Christian woman and who responds to others with compassion, courage and genuine graciousness.

Dr. Antoinette Iadarola, president and Head of School, told graduates that, "You, in no small way, will participate in remaking our world so that it is stronger, smarter, and more just." On

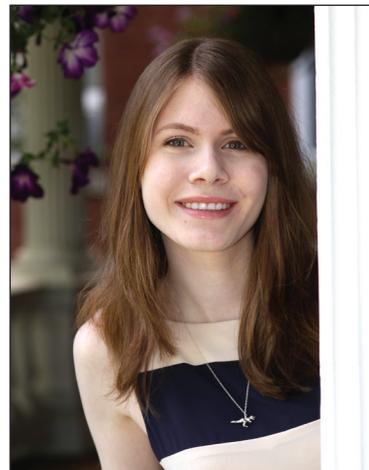
a personal note, Dr. Iadarola added, "This Class of 2017 will always have a special place in my heart because your last year at Luralton is my last year as president."

Sacred Heart Academy, Hamden

Sacred Heart Academy in Hamden graduated 117 young women on May 27. The Class of 2017 is proud to have received

more than \$20 million in academic, merit, and community service scholarships and grants, and one hundred percent of the class has embraced the spirit of service through 15,000 hours of community outreach. This year, Sacred Heart Academy welcomed 500 students in grades 9-12 from more than 80 schools and 60 towns in Connecticut.

Elizabeth Lamont of Hamden
➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 32



LAURALTON HALL, MILFORD – Rachelle Ambroise, valedictorian and Olivia Rubin, salutatorian

ing academics and their dedication to the Jesuit tradition to be "A Man for Others."

Kevin Gallagher is a member of the National Honor Society and has played ice hockey and rugby all four years at Prep. Jesuit education strives for students to embrace the *magis*, the concept of doing "more;" going beyond what is expected to truly make a difference. Kevin strives to have success in business while remaining socially conscious, and he has pursued it through the creation of the charity "A Shirt off My Back," as well as the Bellarmine Brothers program, working with local supermarkets to find ways to save discarded food. Over the past two years he has been participating on a research project with a Yale professor to develop clean drinking water systems in developing countries. With an eye on that career in business, he interned at Merrill Lynch this past summer and was a top finisher in the SIFMA Connecticut Stock Market Competition.

Kevin will be attending Yale, with an interest in pursuing business.

"Kevin is a man of the *magis*, so both in and outside of school he has never been hesitant to step forward whether it was with the Squires service club, the school band or serving as a leader on

campus and is commissioner for Prep's fantasy baseball sports club. He is a peer tutor and a member of the Astronomy Club. He assists special needs children and young adults at the local Kennedy Center, where he has focused his service to the Autism Project. He was recognized as the Kennedy Center Volunteer of the Year. He traveled to Appalachia with a Fairfield Prep service mission, has been a member of Scholars and Athletes Serving Others, was a freshman retreat leader and served as rector of Prep's student-led Kairos Retreat this year.

Brendan will study engineering in the fall at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

"Character counts at Fairfield Prep and Brendan is a young man of outstanding character," says Dr. Perotta. "Five adjectives which characterize Brendan well are: reflective, dedicated to excellence, authentic, naturally curious and altruistic.

Luralton Hall, Milford

Luralton Hall, Our Lady of Mercy Academy, graduated 129 young women on June 3 in the Luralton Hall Athletic Center. This was the largest graduating class in the history of Luralton Hall. This year, seniors contributed nearly 12,000 hours of community service, with 37 seniors

Luralton Hall
CONGRATULATES the CLASS of 2017

AWARDED OVER \$28 MILLION FROM COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
EARNED FIVE DIVISION I ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS
CONTRIBUTED NEARLY 12,000 HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE AS SENIORS

<p>Sara Nicole Abbazia Olivia Marie Adams Elizabeth Grace Alliero Rachelle Lynn Ambroise Lindsay Olivia Anderson Gabriela Maria Baghdady Anastasia Devon Blaisdell Kathryn Laura Blanco Elisabeth Ashleigh Boveroux Laura Beatriz Brea Cameron Mary Britt Mackenzie Sarah Britt Lauren Rose Burtling Katherine Mary Canavan Abigail Ann Cardello Leila Amoura Casaccio Jillian Elizabeth Cass Marina Theodora Christakos Mary Elaine Clark Devin Rose Connelly Antonia Rose Costa Christiana Louise Cottrell Emilee Susan Crowle Olivia Winter D'Andrea Muriel Christine Daccache Elyse Marie Darcy Angelina Michelle DeBenedict Caroline Grace DeBernardis Rebecca Claire Debski Lily Josephine DiDomenico Shannon Grace Dolan Emmeline Rose Donne Kristen Elizabeth Dowling Madelyn Medina Dragone Ciara Mary Dunn Georgia Grace Dunn Deanna Kelly East Presley Marie Elletson Breanne Claire Ellis Anna Marie Celestine Fama Kathryn Paige Fama Mary Rose Finnigan Kiley Morgan Forrest Shauna Leigh Fortier Catherine Elizabeth Fortin Katherine Patricia Franke Alexa Tate Furnari Mikayla Alexis Garcia Emma Louise Geckeler Isabel Marie Geelan Patricia Anne Gildea Emma Tierney Glynn Dorothy Anne Goodrich Jesse Jade Greene Caroline Rose Grosso Ashley Hannah Halkowicz Sarah Andrews Harris Allison Rita Haynes Hannah Elizabeth Haynes Kathleen Abigail Hazzard Grace Irene Healey Mary Grace Held Emma Marie Hendricks Hope Marie Hottois Danielle Mary Iannone</p>	<p>Emma Claire Jacobs Charlotte Adele Kaylor Kathryn Quinn Kelly Francesca Grace Kerekes-Norko Abigail Rose Knopf Emma Marie Ford Kolakowski Sarah Mary Kulaga Gabrielle Rose La Pointe Ruohan Li Audra Elizabeth Logan Emma Elizabeth Lopez-Mastropietro Yuying Ma Molly Elizabeth Magarian Caroline Anne Mancini Victoria Lynn Markow Gianna Marie Mascola Lea Marie Mascola Taylor Jordan McCarroll Colleen Elizabeth Ann McCarthy Haleigh Jane McLaughlin Zoe Laure Merriman Madelyn Patricia Monahan Mia Elizabeth Mulin Louisa Mary Nann Michaela Grace O'Donnell Molly Irene Patrick Emma Charlotte Pavlick Clarice Ryan Pennock Kristin Rose Pepler Veronica Rose Piscitelli Marissa Emily Pocerovic Olivia Nicolé Prescott Teresa Barbara Risoli Kathryn Ann Rooney Jenna Mary Rotondo Olivia Vanessa Rubin Mary Beth Rudolf Christy Anna Russo Analiese Kathryn Schwartz Alexandra Jean Sciallo Josie Lynn Scully Annie Lynn Sheketoff Sara Lise Simkovitz Katherine Jane Simonetti Amanda Rose Slesinski Yashaswini Soleti Sasha Adjoa Edusei Somuah Grace Anne Sweeney Emily Ann Totura Kerry Elizabeth Ullman Sarah Catherine Vaccarelli Anika Elizabeth Vanderwal Jordan Taylor Vasilko-Parlato Jennifer Ellen Veith Taylor Eleni Veliotis Namandje Kareemah Wali Yunling Wang Megan Ann Wilcoxson Abigail Margaret Wolpiuk Zihan Xia Nicole Ann Zaccaro Maya Zaleski Yiyun Zheng Ellie Vance Ziedman</p>
--	---

Milford, CT 203.877.2786 LuraltonHall.org Founded By The Sisters Of Mercy

Vals and Sals

Career Day held at St. Augustine Academy

BRIDGEPORT—For the first time ever, St. Augustine Academy hosted a Career Day in late spring, with seven speakers coming to their campus to speak to the seventh graders of three Catholic Academy campuses (St. Augustine, St. Ann and St. Andrew) in Bridgeport.

“We try to pull together a joint activity for each grade every year,” explained St. Augustine’s principal, Debi Boccanfuso. “Our classrooms are on different campuses and we want to get the students to feel that they all belong to the Catholic Academy. They’ll be together in high school, so these events start that process.”

Career Day was chosen as a joint event for seventh graders so that, well in advance of high

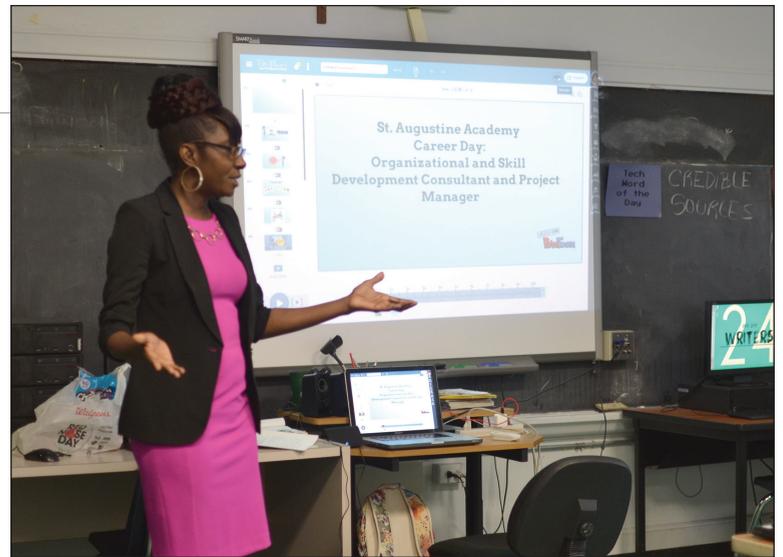
school, they could start thinking of themselves as serious students working toward a promising future. “We wanted them to begin to think about how they could open doors and broaden their horizons during their school years. By eighth grade the seed is planted.”

The keynote speaker was Atty. Elizabeth Reid, supervisor for the Public Defender’s Office at Norwalk Superior Court. She was joined by court social worker Sonia Downer; Vincent Lariccia, a Bridgeport Police Officer and SWAT Team member; author Kristen Harnisch; Season Jamison-Colley, project manager for the UCONN School of Social Services; Raquel Rivera-Pablo, a chef and instructor at A

Pinch of Salt cooking school; and Maureen Hammill who, in addition to her acting career and her position as director of the Klein Theater, can claim distinction as an alum of St. Augustine.

After hearing from Atty. Reid, students rotated through the speakers to hear about their career paths and the choices they made to get where they are today. The purpose of the day was for the students not only to understand the possible careers open to them, but to understand the paths that make any given career possible. They were encouraged to look for the opportunities that will come their way in the years ahead.

The students were enthusiastic in their reaction to the speakers’



EXPLORING CAREER POSSIBILITIES and the paths to make them possible was the aim of the Catholic Academy Career Day. Season Jamison-Colley, organizational project manager at UCONN School of Social Services, was one of the day’s speakers.

stories. “My favorite speaker was the Broadway actor,” says one seventh grader from St. Andrew Academy. “She really taught me that even if you fail or don’t get the job, you keep on trying.”

Her classmate was impressed by Atty. Reid’s account. “I liked the way she explained her difficult journey to success.”

And, of course, Officer Lariccia was a hit with the seventh grade boys, and provided the most interesting reaction of the day: “The *Squat* team police

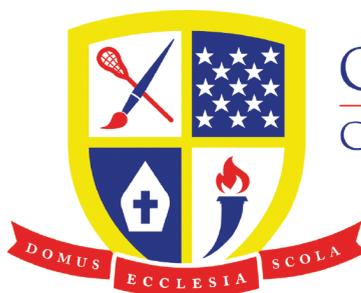
officer was interesting because I found his job very exciting and cool!”

“We want them to start thinking about where they are in the big picture of life,” says Principal Boccanfuso. “Maybe next year we can take them for a visit to the courthouse or one of the other locations where our speakers work, and give them the opportunity to further explore some career possibilities.”

The day ended with a wrap up and pizza for all.



“And keep the charge of the Lord your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn.” - 1 Kings 2:3



GREENWICH
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
CONGRATULATES
THE CLASS OF 2017

ROOTED IN FAITH. SURROUNDED BY COMMUNITY. COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE.

VALS AND SALS FROM PAGE 31

is Sacred Heart’s valedictorian. This spring she was recognized by the Connecticut Association of Schools for Excellence in the Arts. In the summers following her sophomore and junior year, she worked as a junior intern at Old Sturbridge Village, a living history museum in Massachusetts. Elizabeth will attend Vassar College this fall and is considering a major in art history.

Alysse Mastriano of East Haven is Sacred Heart’s 2017 salutatorian. An All-SCC Scholar-Athlete, Alysse has been a member of multiple honor societies and has volunteered at the St. Ann soup kitchen and pantry and the Clelian Adult Center. She will attend Boston College in the fall, where she was accepted with the BC Scholarship. She intends to major in nursing and minor in psychology and hopes to eventually attend medical school.

In an unusual twist, St. Rita Parish in Hamden is the home parish for both top scholars.

In addition, SHA is pleased to announce that Elisa Palmeri is the Mother Clelia Merloni Award

recipient. This award, named for the foundress of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, is given each year to the senior who exemplifies the ideals of love, service and reparation—the three hallmarks of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Elisa is an active member of St. Ambrose Parish in Northford.

In the fall, Elisa will attend the University of Scranton as a neuroscience major. She was invited into the Special Jesuit Liberal Arts Honors Program where she will minor in philosophy and theology.

“The Sacred Heart Academy Class of 2017 is certainly an impressive one, with all they have achieved in the classroom, on the stage, on the playing fields, and in service to others,” said Sister Kathleen Mary Coonan, ASCJ, ’76, Sacred Heart’s principal. “Members of the class will attend some of the most selective schools in the country; 37 will continue their education at Catholic schools. Also notable: seven members of the class will continue to play sports at in college and 38 members graduated as 4.0 Scholars.”

Foundation in Education

Bidding up the giving for Catholic education

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

There was an excitement in the room at Woodway Country Club in Darien at the second Foundations in Education Spring Gala on May 11, which drew business and education leaders throughout Fairfield County.

The event lived up to its billing in an evening filled with high spirits, generous giving and a strong commitment to Catholic education. More than 250 attended the gala, which included live and silent auctions while focusing on the transformative power of Catholic schools to change lives and lead to better futures for young people.

When the bidding was finished, the event had raised over \$800,000, according to Holly Doherty-Lemoine, executive director of Foundations in Education (FIE), which manages the Bishop's Scholarship Fund and other programs for innovation and investment in diocesan Catholic schools.

Many of the guests were alumni of Catholic schools, including recent graduates and those who remember the "golden era" of the schools in the 1950s.

CNBC economics commentator Larry Kudlow started the ball rolling as master of ceremonies when he said that Catholic schools not only produce great students and citizens but also "keep the faith alive and pass it on to the next generation."

Kudlow, who is a member of the FIE board, said Catholic schools helped to save New York City during the turbulent era of the 1970s, and continue to offer a faith-filled alternative to secular values.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano shared a personal story about the power of Catholic education in his own life. He said his father came to the U.S. in 1955 as an Italian immigrant with a third grade education.

"He was a longshoreman who unloaded ships. My mother arrived two years later and had a fifth grade education, but in a few years I would be accepted as a freshman at Yale University," he said. "I'm one of those helped by Catholic education—children from poor backgrounds who were given a future."



The centerpiece of the program was the awards ceremony that honored George Landegger, Sister Joan Magnetti, rscj, and Tony Pavia.

Pavia, who has had a distinguished career in education as principal at Stamford High School, Trinity Catholic High School and New Canaan High School, told the gathering he was far from a stellar student in high school. "Truth is, I wasn't even an average student. I majored in being the class clown," he said.

His life changed dramatically in his first year at Stamford Catholic, when his father died suddenly and his mother did not have the means to continue paying the tuition. As he reluctantly prepared to transfer from the school, he was told that he had received a scholarship.

"The scholarship was a life-changing event for me. I don't know how I got it and what someone saw in me. Being able to return to Stamford Catholic was a gift to me. Remember, what you do tonight will change lives."

Pavia said anything good that he brought to his education leadership posts came from his experience of Catholic schools as a family where every individual life is valued and nurtured.

Business leader and philanthropist George Landegger of Ridgefield was recognized for his "vision and compassion" in helping the disadvantage and his significant personal generosity to Catholic schools in the diocese. Among other gifts, he created 24 scholarships to Immaculate High School and 36 scholarships to St. Peter Elementary School.

In accepting the award,

Landegger described Catholic elementary and high schools as "a highway to college," particularly for families struggling with economic challenges.

He also praised Bishop Caggiano for his leadership in building support for Catholic schools and creating a new era in Catholic education. "We have been truly blessed to have the bishop in our midst. It has been my privilege to help and I thank you for the honor."

Sister Joan Magnetti, executive director of the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport, offered a brief and spirited acceptance by

thanking donors and encouraging continued generosity. "It's really important in life what you show up for," she said, thanking all those in attendance.

The education leader with over 30 years experience recalled that her mother often said, "Remember Joan, we all need help getting out of the womb."

"Just 20 minutes from here is a different world," Sister Magnetti said, referring to the children served by the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport. "We have 920 students on four campuses. They need to feel the face of God and heart of Christ in their lives."

Student speaker Joshua Alexandrino, a seventh grader at All Saints School in Norwalk, brought the house down with his poised acceptance speech and a rendition of "I don't need anything but you," which he reprised from his role in "Annie," the school play performed earlier in the year.

He said he was very grateful for the Bishop's Scholarship Fund, which has given him the opportunity to attend a Catholic school.

After dinner, the bidding started with Cardinal Shehan Center

executive Terry O'Connor serving as auctioneer. Guests bid on a wide range of items, from a reservation at Rao's restaurant in New York City to breakfast for 20 with Bishop Caggiano.

Hands and ballots continued to fly up with high bids to show strong support for Catholic schools. The final "Leaders of Tomorrow" auction bolstered proceeds with scores of donors raising hands to provide full and partial scholarships at the schools.

The mission of Foundations in Education is to support the Catholic schools of the diocese through scholarships and professional development grants in innovation and transformational leadership.

In the past year alone, the Bishop's Scholarship Fund awarded nearly \$2.3 million in aid to more than 1,240 students at diocesan elementary schools.

Barbara and Peter Ripp served as chairs of the Gala Committee. Tom McInerney served as sponsor chair.

(For more information, call Holly Doherty-Lemoine: 203.416.1400 or go to www.foundationsineducation.org.)



IMMACULATE HIGH SCHOOL

Proudly announces its **Top 10** Students of 2017



Case Western
Reserve
University



University of
Notre Dame



Villanova
University



Northeastern
University



University of
Connecticut



Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology



Boston
College

Congratulations to the Class of 2017 who were offered more than **\$19** million in Scholarships, Grants & Awards.

73 Southern Boulevard, Danbury, CT • www.immaculatehs.org • (203) 744-1510

State Science Winners

Young scientists take home honors

By PAT HENNESSY

Students from 10 diocesan schools excelled again this year at the Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair, seven at the middle school level and three from diocesan high schools. CSEF is a yearly, statewide fair open to all seventh through twelfth grade students in Connecticut schools and nearby areas of New York.

Through CSEF, students are encouraged to pursue independent work using proper research methods. More than 15,000 students compete for the 600 spaces at the state fair. Prizes are awarded in two divisions: Life Science and Physical Science.

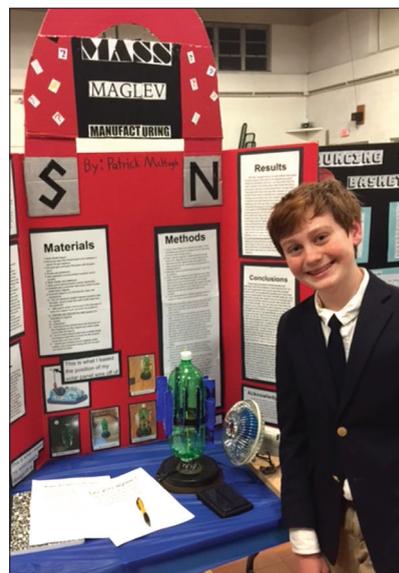
Greenwich Catholic School was excited to learn that seventh grader Patrick McHugh won first place in his grade in the Physical Science Division. In a project that

may have long-term effects on energy usage, Patrick's project, "Mass Maglev Manufacturing," focused on the use of magnets to increase efficiency in powering wind turbines. In addition to the state award, Patrick was a finalist in the Energize CT/eemarts Alternative/Renewable Energy awards.

Greenwich Catholic picked up three other awards in Physical and Life Science.

The St. Aloysius School team of Kaloyan Dimitrov, Andrew Tully and Alex Lanzillotti won first place for seventh grade teams. Their project, called "Mars Exploration," swept several awards, including a Physical Sciences award from Pepsico, an Excellence in Engineering award from UTC Aerospace Systems, and a first place from the International Society of Automation.

The students created and modified a rover using a Lego EV3, and tested it on various terrains similar to those found on Mars, which they replicated using rocks, sand and asphalt. By adding color, ultrasonic and touch sensors, their rover demonstrated the ability to detect obstacles and change its path. Further modifications included varying the wheel type and incorporating a forklift to assess carrying



EXPLORING MARS—innovations in their Mars rover design earned the St. Aloysius School team of Kaloyan Dimitrov, Andrew Tully and Alex Lanzillotti first place overall for all middle school grades at the Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair. (l) Magnets and turbines earned GCS seventh-grader Patrick McHugh a trophy in Physical Science.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE



CLASS OF 2017!

HIGH SCHOOLS OUR STUDENTS WILL BE ATTENDING:

Lauralton Hall • Fairfield Prep • St. Joseph's High School • School of the Holy Child • Kent School • Brien McMahon High School

ST. ALOYSIUS SCHOOL

2010 Blue Ribbon School

Accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges
33 South Avenue, New Canaan, CT 06840



FOR A DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC AND VALUES-BASED K-8 EDUCATION

capacity. The students demonstrated the rover's speed, wheel effectiveness and efficiency of the sensors based on different scenarios. Their project incorporated engineering, coding and automation, which are key components of STEM education.

In addition to their seventh-grade win, the team won first place overall for all middle school grades at the CSEF, and have been invited to compete in the Broadcom MASTERS, a national competition held in September in Washington, D.C.

The St. Aloysius eighth grade team earned second place in Physical Science for "the Future of Filtration."

Two Danbury schools, St. Joseph and St. Gregory the Great, can claim the greatest number of young scientists, each garnering a total of eight winning projects. Two students from St. Joseph took home trophies, seventh grader Bronwyn Hyland in Physical Science and the eighth grade team of Matthew Riggs and Steven Soto in Life Science. St. Gregory's seventh grader Anna Flaherty earned a trophy in Physical Science and an invitation to Broadcom in September.

St. Mark School in Stratford can claim six winners, with a trophy for seventh grader Kaitlyn Sczepanski Life Sciences for "Watts' the Efficiency of Solar Cells?" She also earned a UTC Aerospace Systems award for

Excellence in Engineering and an invitation to Compete in Boadcom MASTERS.

St. Mary School in Bethel had seven winners; St. Rose of Lima claimed three, with first place awards going to two seventh graders, Gregory Gargano in Life Science and Irena Komminakas in Physical Science. St. Joseph School in Shelton had four finalists and St. Jude in Monroe brought home two.

Diocesan high school students garnered their own collection of trophies. St. Joseph's in Trumbull had three winning projects, including two teams of firsts: Cheng Chang and Hao Zang in Life Science and Abigail Cloud and Anna Argulain in Physical Science. Notre Dame and Immaculate came home with an award each, in the Life Science and Physical Science divisions respectively. Among the private Catholic high schools, Sacred Heart Academy gained six wins, including one first place for Eunji Lee of Trumbull; and Fairfield Prep students took home four, with a first going to Jonathan Siveyer from Monroe.

The participants in the Connecticut Science and Engineering fair are already budding scientists, having out-researched over a thousand competitors to bring their projects to the competition. In the years ahead, they will be researching, planning and exploring ways to make our world better.

Saint Thomas, Fairfield

Little Flower Club puts virtue into action

By PAT HENNESSY

“Oooh! Look at these tiny shoes!”

“The socks, too, they’re so cute.”

“The moms are going to love these.”

The fifth grade girls at the St. Therese Little Flower Club at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School in Fairfield are filling baskets of baby items for pregnant young women assisted by Birthright in Norwalk. All year long, the girls have been studying saints, Scripture and virtues, and have been learning ways to put their faith into action.

“The Little Flowers Club is about service and virtues for humanity,” says Dawn Marie Carpanzano, founder and co-leader with Rebecca Santoli.

The girls study one virtue a month. The virtues are connected to a Scripture reading, a saint and a flower representing the virtue that saint is most noted for. “There’s time for discussion about that virtue and the way to apply it in their own lives. That’s the time the girls enjoy most,” Carpanzano says.

A craft time allows girls to each construct a flower for the month’s virtue and add it to a wreath. The club began meeting in October. By the final meeting in June, each girl has a wreath of flowers to bring home as a reminder of the virtues they have studied.

The girls are quick to chime in with their favorite flowers. “Ivy is a symbol of St. Therese, because she would cling to hope,” says Georgia Rollins. “We chose her

as a model so that we can cling to the hope that we can make the world a better place.”

“The sunflower represents St. Katherine Drexel, because she always faced God even when it was hard,” adds Maeve O’Donnell.

“St. Mary Frances Chantal is the rose, symbolizing love of neighbor, because she was kind to the people around her,” says Noel Carpanzano, Dawn Marie’s daughter.

Throughout the year, as the girls studied saints and their virtues, they talked about ways to put them into practice. In January, the month of the Respect Life March in Washington, D.C., the girls ran a bake sale to assist the pregnant moms who turned to Birthright



CHEERFUL PERSONALIZED cards accompany packets of baby items gathered by the girls in the St. Therese Little Flower Club.

for help. Not content with simply giving a check, they have also collected diapers and baby items, which they are now, with great enthusiasm, assembling into baskets. The girls are making cards to go along with the baskets and their collected funds, and praying for the expectant mothers.

“We want to give them the little things that make a difference in life,” explains Julia Ortiz. “St. Therese tried to do ‘little things

with great love.’ Love is not a noun—it’s a verb.”

Amy O’Shea, whose daughter MacLean is a club member, was on hand this day to help transport the baskets. “I think that this group reinforces the values and morals that we try to teach at home and at St. Thomas,” she says.

“I think we tend to underestimate how compassionate they are at this age,” agrees Clare

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 40



TRINITY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2017 COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES \$14,808,680 IN SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

Academy of Art University
Albright College
Alvernia College
American International College
American University
Anna Maria College
Arcadia University
Assumption College
Austin Community College
Bany University
Baruch College of the CUNY
Becker College
Bentley University
Bethany College
Binghamton University
Boston College
Boston University
Bryant University
California State University, East Bay
California State University, Monterey Bay
Carleton University
Central Connecticut State University
Clemson University
Coastal Carolina University
College of Charleston
College of the Holy Cross
College of William & Mary
Concordia University, Montreal
Dean College
Dominican College
Drexel University
Duquesne University
East Carolina University
Eastern Connecticut State University
Eckerd College
Elizabethtown College
Elon University
Endicott College
Fairfield University
Flagler College
Florida Atlantic University

Florida Gulf Coast University
Fordham University
Franklin Pierce University
Furman University
George Mason University
Georgia State University
High Point University
Hofstra University
Indiana University
Iona College
Iowa State University
Ithaca College
Jagiellonian University
James Madison University
Johnson & Wales University
Keene State College
Kent State University
LaSalle University
Lafayette College
LeMoine College
Lesley University
Linfield College
Louisiana State University
Loyola Marymount University
Loyola University Maryland
Lynchburg College
Manhattan College
Manhattanville College
Marist College
Massachusetts College of Art and Design
Mercy College
Merrimack College
Miami University, Oxford
Michigan State University
Monmouth University
Montserrat College of Art
Mount Ida College
Mount Saint Mary College
New England School of Art and Design
at Suffolk University

Newbury College
Nichols College
Northeastern University
Norwalk Community College
Pace University
Pennsylvania State University
Pepperdine University
Post University
Providence College
Purdue University
Quinnipiac University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhode Island College
Roanoke College
Rochester Institute of Technology
Roger Williams University
Sacred Heart University
Sage College of Albany
Saint Joseph’s University
Saint Louis University
Saint Michael’s College
San Diego Community College
Seton Hall University
Siena College
Southern Connecticut State University
Southern Methodist University
Southern New Hampshire University
Springfield College
St. Bonaventure University
St. John Fisher College
St. John’s University
St. Thomas Aquinas College
Stevens Institute of Technology
Stonehill College
Suffolk University
SUNY College at Geneseo
Syracuse University
Texas A & M University
Texas Christian University
The Catholic University of America
The College of New Jersey

The College of Saint Rose
The George Washington University
The New School
The Ohio State University
The University of Alabama
The University of Arizona
The University of Scranton
Towson University
Union College
University of Bridgeport
University of California, Davis
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of Central Florida
University of Colorado at Boulder
University of Connecticut Stamford
University of Connecticut Storrs
University of Dayton
University of Delaware
University of Georgia
University of Hartford
University of Illinois
University of Kansas
University of Maine
University of Maryland
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
University of Massachusetts, Boston
University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth
University of Massachusetts, Lowell
University of Miami

University of Montevallo
University of Nebraska
University of New England
University of New Hampshire
University of New Haven
University of New Mexico
University of North Texas
University of Pittsburgh
University of Rhode Island
University of Rochester
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
University of South Carolina
University of Tampa
University of Toledo
University of Vermont
University of Virginia
University of Washington
Villanova University
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Tech
Virginia Wesleyan College
Wabash College
West Virginia University
Western Connecticut State University
Western New England University
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Xavier University

Colleges listed in bold indicate college of attendance.



Admissions Office ~ 926 Newfield Avenue ~ Stamford CT - 203.322.3401 x 302

Youth Service

Service and sharing with the Navajo

By **GABRIELA BAGHDADY**

Desert landscapes, distant mountains, ancient rock formations—these are the sights that characterized the winter break of my senior year in high school. Thanks to a unique service opportunity offered by the campus ministry at my school, Lauralton Hall, I was able to discover a place unlike anywhere I have ever been.

This past February, I spent a week with seven other Lauralton students and two faculty members in Tohatchi, New Mexico, part of the Navajo Nation. There, we met with members of St. Mary's Franciscan mission as well as the Navajo community, learning about the role of the mission and learning Navajo culture. We assisted the community with daily tasks such as painting and cleaning as well as packaging and delivering food. We also attended several Masses with the Navajo people.

Why did I decide to go on this

trip instead of relaxing with my family or hanging out with friends at home? When I first heard about the mission, I was drawn to the chance to help the Native American community in some small way. According to a study released in January 2017 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Native American families occupy the most severely overcrowded and rundown homes in the U.S. In fact, roughly 40 percent of total Navajo housing lacks electricity or running water. Yet most people I've spoken with are unaware of this crisis.

Each day, my classmates and I had a new opportunity to assist the community while becoming more familiar with Navajo culture. One day we helped Clara, one of the women of the community, make traditional Navajo fry bread. She then invited us to share a meal with her family. As we told stories from home and participated in their Navajo tradi-



GABRIELA BAGHDADY

tions, it dawned on me that this is what real service is about—being truly engaged in a community.

Another day, we prepared for and participated in a traditional sweat lodge, a Navajo purification ritual, led in native-language prayer by a Navajo woman. We also visited the capital of the Navajo Nation—Window Rock—as well as Native American ruins at Canyon de Chelly. Finally, we participated in an outreach program, helping to deliver food to several Navajo homes and visiting with the families.

All the while, I learned to



SERVING THE NAVAJO PEOPLE—simple tasks like painting and cleaning brought home the importance of making mercy real in this world.

understand and appreciate the richness of the Navajo culture and spirituality. The people are so firmly connected to the earth and their surroundings—it was an enlightening experience, so different from mine at home. The Navajo showed me how to be ready for the changes that will inevitably come in life. When something doesn't go as expected, they accept and adapt rather than resist change. I also learned to better appreciate the home that

we have been given on earth. Spending time with the Navajo, I realized that we have so much to be grateful for.

Perhaps the most important lesson that I took from my trip was one of mercy, a virtue that Lauralton Hall and our sponsor, the Sisters of Mercy, seek to instill in students as a way of life. The Navajo live their lives trying to give back to the earth and to the members of the community, never letting the horrors their people endured make them vengeful or bitter. Instead, they show compassion to all people they encounter, no matter where they come from—also a value emphasized throughout my four years at Lauralton. As I prepare to enter college, I know I will carry with me the wisdom gained by meeting and serving the Navajo people as well as the importance of making mercy real in this world.

(To help the St. Mary Mission, go to: <http://stmarytohatchi.org/may2017appeal.pdf>)

(Gabriela Baghdady, Lauralton Hall Class of 2017, is a member of St. Lawrence Parish in Shelton. She will attend Johns Hopkins University in the fall.)

KOLBE CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Education that engages,
empowers and transforms!



Accepting Transfer Students
Now for
2017-2018 School Year

TEST & TOUR THURSDAY AT 8:30AM

June 22, 2017



Call to register: 203-335-2554
www.kolbecaths.org
33 Calhoun Place • Bridgeport, CT



CALLING ALL SINGERS!

DIOCESAN YOUTH CHOIR AUDITIONS

PLEASE BE SURE TO REGISTER
FOR YOUR AUDITION ON

C4YSINGS.COM

C4Y, Choir For Youth, is open to all young adults in Fairfield County
7th grade through Senior in High School as of September, 2017.

Science & Engineering

The Sky's the Limit

"The Right Stuff is the Never Give Up Stuff" proclaimed the motto above Astronaut Leland Melvin as he stood before the middle school students of the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport on May 22.

"If you believe in yourself, you can do anything," Melvin told the students, who had gathered in the Edgerton Theater at Sacred Heart University. "You have to prepare for jobs you can't yet imagine. If you have curiosity, it's like lifetime learning. If you have curiosity, you can pick up a book and apply that learning to do something to better yourself, better your community, better your family."

Melvin spent over 565 hours in space beginning in 2008, orbiting the earth aboard the 24th mission of Shuttle Atlantis and then in 2009 aboard the 31st shuttle

flight to the International Space Station. He engaged the students with videos of astronauts catching M&Ms and flipping coins in zero gravity, and gave them an engaging introduction to the science of space travel.

"It takes three days to travel to the moon," he told the students, "but to reach Mars takes eight months. Then you'd have to wait until Mars and Earth were in alignment before you could start the eight-month trip back."

His presentation introduced students to a much deeper topic: the determination, patience and perseverance needed to achieve their dreams. Melvin earned a football scholarship to the University of Richmond, Virginia, was chosen to play for the Detroit Lions and then for the Dallas Cowboys before a pulled hamstring ended his football

career.

Students listened spellbound as he spun tales of blowing up a strange mix of chemicals in his mother's living room, complete with videos of a similar, larger explosion. He described the tragic mistake that left him deaf after his first depth dive during weightlessness training. He showed them videos of the way, equipped with a master of science degree in materials science engineering and finally in space as a NASA astronaut, he made repairs to the space station with a robotic arm.

"The two most important days in your life are the day you were born, and the day you figure out WHY?—why you were born. When you figure that out, don't give up. Even if you fail, don't give up."

The students reacted positively to his challenge.



THE RIGHT STUFF—Astronaut Leland Melvin, who spent over 565 hours in space, talked to Catholic Academy students about the determination, patience and perseverance needed to achieve their dreams.

"I really enjoyed the thought of going into space," said Brayden Alexis, an eighth grader at St. Andrew Academy. "I enjoy astronomy and research on different types of stars and galaxies. His talk also makes me think that, even though you might be one thing at one point, you can change later."

Melvin later brought his

message to the youngsters of St. Raphael Academy and to the Cathedral Academy. With the youngsters at St. Raphael's, his simplified talk emphasized books like the *Little Engine That Could* and *Curious George* to bring home the qualities of persistence and curiosity.

Third grader Maria Santos
➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 40



Congratulations to the Class of 2017!

Where young women become global leaders



An independent, Catholic college-preparatory girls' school
K-12 with coed Barat Center for Early Childhood Education

1177 King Street | Greenwich, Connecticut
203-532-3534 | cshgreenwich.org

Class of 2017 College Matriculations

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| Amherst College | Furman University | University of Southern California |
| Babson College | George Washington University (2) | University of St. Andrews, Scotland |
| Boston College | Georgetown University (6) | Stanford University |
| Brown University | Hillsdale College | State University of |
| Bucknell University | College of the Holy Cross | New York at Buffalo (2) |
| Carnegie Mellon University | Johns Hopkins University | State University of |
| University of California Santa Barbara | Lehigh University | New York, Plattsburgh |
| Colby College | Loyola Marymount University | Syracuse University |
| Colgate University (3) | Maryland Institute College of Art | Union College (2) |
| Columbia University | University of Michigan | University of Vermont (2) |
| University of Connecticut | Northeastern University (3) | Villanova University |
| Cornell University (3) | University of Notre Dame (4) | University of Virginia |
| Dartmouth College | Ohio State University | Wake Forest University |
| Denison University | Pennsylvania State University | Washington University in St. Louis (3) |
| Drexel University | Providence College | Wellesley College |
| Elon University (2) | Quinnipiac University | Williams College |
| Fairfield University | University of Richmond | University of Wisconsin, Madison (2) |
| Franklin and Marshall College | Rochester Institute of Technology | Yale University |

Breakfast of Champions

Bishop honors Scholars and Athletes

BRIDGEPORT—“May our schools always be vibrant places where faith and learning are the center of our lives,” Bishop Frank J. Caggiano said in his blessing at the annual “Breakfast of Champions” held on May 25 in Our Lady Queen of Saints Hall at the Catholic Center. More than 200 parents, principals and pastors turned out to honor the 44 young people who were selected as recipients of this year’s St. Thomas Aquinas Award for academic excellence and the St. Sebastian Award for team leadership and sports achievements.



“I am very proud of these students, who have already achieved so much in their studies and on the field, and even more encouraged by their life of faith and virtue,” the bishop said.

Among the recipients was eighth grader Grace Tirado of St. Peter School in Danbury, who was honored to be accompanied by her mother, Christine, St. Peter’s pastor, Father Gregg Mecca, and Father Peter Towsley, pastor of her home parish of Sacred Heart in Danbury.

Her favorite subject at St. Peter’s is language arts, but she’s most excited about studying science and chemistry and becoming a cheerleader when she enters Immaculate High School next September.

“I’m proud of her,” said mom, Christine. “She worked very hard. This year she’s improved a lot. She focused on her studies, and when she sets her mind on something she’s determined.”

Jack Donofrio received the St.

Thomas Award for his efforts at St. Theresa School, Trumbull. He was accompanied by his parents, Jeff and Suzanne.

Jack said that he loved all aspects of his life at St. Theresa, particularly playing clarinet in the school band, which led him to become part of the Future Musicians All State Band and gave him the opportunity to play at Lincoln Center. His favorite

subject is math, and he’ll be attending St. Joseph High School next year on a Presidential Scholarship.

“It’s a sign of great achievement. Jack embodies not only high academic achievement but also the faith, which he expresses in terms of his character. He’s really exemplary. He’s one of those kids you can count on to bring the other kids up. Although



he’s quiet, students look up to him and will emulate him,” said Principal Salvatore Vittoria.

Father Brian Gannon, pastor of St. Theresa, praised Jack for his commitment as an altar server and interest in Eucharistic Adoration.

After receiving individual awards, the students all came forward for a group picture with

Bishop Caggiano and school officials.

“I am so proud of these young people,” said Dr. Stephen Cheeseman, superintendent of schools. “I hope that the recognition they receive today encourages them to always strive to reach their full potential. I pray that they remain rooted in Christ and use their gift in his service.”

Immaculate HS

Student receives top fiction honor

DANBURY—Immaculate High School junior and Newtown resident Albert “A.J.” Vitiello received a National Medal in Flash Fiction from the 2017 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, placing him in the top one percent of all submissions. Out of 330,000 submissions from students in grades 7-12, only 2,736 received National Medals. He will be honored by Scholastic at a special ceremony in June at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

A.J. won the National Medal for his flash fiction short “The Gospel According to Steve Harvey,” which depicts how a teenage girl’s relationship with her grandmother is affected by Alzheimer’s disease. “I wrote ‘The Gospel According to Steve Harvey’ because I think that Alzheimer’s disease is a topic that doesn’t receive as much attention in literature as it should,” A.J. said. “My inspiration came from a family member who suffers from the disease,” he noted.



A.J. VITIELLO

A.J. has received local recognition for this award. Senator Chris Murphy sent him a congratulatory letter, stating that “the ability to express oneself in any art form is invaluable...I am so proud of the example

you have set for your peers.” A.J.

is now in good company; past medalists have included celebrated authors and artists including Andy Warhol, Sylvia Plath, Truman Capote, Richard Avedon, Robert Redford, Lena Dunham and Paul Chan.

This is not the first time A.J. has won Scholastic Awards. The future novelist submitted excerpts last year from the first five chapters of his novel *Field Mouse* which he is currently writing, and ended up winning a National Silver Medal in the Novel Writing category of the 2016 competition. Additionally, his horror story “Masks” won a Silver Key in the Hudson to Housatonic region of the 2016 competition.

“My dream is to be a fiction writer, so I’ll probably take an English-related route for college; I already took a creative writing course at New York University last spring,” he said.

Perhaps someday he will teach creative writing as well; A.J. has already taught creative writing camps for kids in grades 5-8 at the C.H. Booth Library in Newtown. His favorite genre to write is realistic fiction, but when reading, he loves all genres. A.J.’s favorite book is “The Road” by Cormac McCarthy, and his favorite authors are Stephen King, George Orwell, Gillian Flynn and J.D. Salinger.

This summer, A.J. will travel to Ghana, West Africa, as a volunteer with Global Leadership Adventures. There he will design lesson plans and teach basic English and math to Ghanaian children and make bricks for use in the construction of a new school. A.J. will also study social issues that face African women and children today, traditional art and dance, and the influence of slavery on African nations. He also plans to speak with local leaders about how to combat modern day slavery and human trafficking and will spend time at an orphanage that houses children who have lost parents to HIV and AIDS. He is currently fundraising for this trip. ■

2017 Breakfast of Champions

The recipients of the St. Thomas Aquinas Award were selected for excellence in academics and exemplifying Gospel values.

St. Thomas Aquinas Award 5th Grade Recipients

Katerina Koutouvides—*Our Lady Star of the Sea School, Stamford*
Maeve Petrizzi—*St. Cecilia School, Stamford*
Kyara Scialpi—*Holy Spirit School, Stamford*

8th Grade Recipients

Matthew Catalani—*Greenwich Catholic School, Greenwich*
Julia Dabrowski—*St. Mark School, Stratford*
Megan DeLallo—*All Saints Catholic School, Norwalk*
Joseph DiMaria—*St. Rose of Lima School, Newtown*
Patrick Dineen—*St. Catherine of Siena School, Trumbull*
Jack Donofrio—*St. Theresa School, Trumbull*
Erica Estrella—*Catholic Academy of Bridgeport (St. Augustine)*
Jacob Fleischer—*St. Lawrence School, Shelton*
Jasmine Fuller—*Catholic Academy of Bridgeport (St. Ann)*
Grace Garvey—*St. Mary School, Bethel*

Abby Giansiracusa—*St. Joseph School, Danbury*
Ava Golden—*St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School, Fairfield*
Miranda Hancock—*Our Lady of Fatima School, Wilton*
Molly McAndrew—*St. Aloysius School, New Canaan*
Zachary Meyerson—*St. Gregory the Great School, Danbury*
Gabrielle Nagle—*Trinity Catholic Middle School, Stamford*
Alexa Pannese—*St. Jude School, Monroe*
Joshua Pianto—*Catholic Academy of Bridgeport (St. Andrew)*
Rebecca Sousa—*Assumption Catholic School, Fairfield*
Sarah Sportini—*St. James School, Stratford*
Isabelle Thompson—*St. Mary School, Ridgefield*
Grace Tirado—*St. Peter School, Danbury*
Sebastian Tseng—*St. Joseph School, Brookfield*
Marcus Yancoskie—*St. Joseph School, Shelton*

12th Grade Recipients

Stephen Caponetti—*Trinity Catholic High School, Stamford*
Andrew Fallon—*Notre Dame High School, Fairfield*
Christopher Lopez—*Kolbe Cathedral High School, Bridgeport*
Jillian Pruner—*Immaculate High School, Danbury*
Erin Welch—*St. Joseph High School, Trumbull*

St. Sebastian Award recipients were selected for leadership in their respective high schools as the captain of an athletic team.

St. Sebastian Award 12th Grade Recipients

Sean Fahey—*Immaculate High School, Boys Indoor Track*
Christian Morris—*Immaculate High School, Boys Indoor Track*
Diana Kirkman—*Immaculate High School, Girls Cross Country*
Danielle Marcone—*Immaculate High School, Girls Cross Country*
Kayla Lanza—*Immaculate High School, Girls Soccer*
Brianna Kydes—*Notre Dame High School, Girls Soccer*
Samantha LaValle—*Notre Dame High School, Girls Soccer*
Delaney O’Keefe—*Notre Dame High School, Girls Soccer*
Christina DiCesare—*St. Joseph High School, Girls Soccer*
Lindsey Savko—*St. Joseph High School, Girls Soccer*
Sophia Smith—*St. Joseph High School, Girls Soccer*
Peter Galgano—*Trinity Catholic High School, Boys Basketball*



Congratulations to the 92 members of the Portsmouth Abbey School Class of 2017 who will be attending 62 different colleges and universities next year!

PORTSMOUTH ABBEY SCHOOL

New England’s Independent Catholic Boarding School located six miles from Newport, RI

School News

LITTLE FLOWER CLUB FROM PAGE 35

O'Mahoney's mom Kate. "Especially at this age, they're so ready to give. This club helps them to see that ours is an active faith. It makes them see the connection between faith and action."

The group has helped out at the school's Breakfast With Santa, and gave tours of St. Thomas during Catholic Schools Week. More than that, discussions about the virtues lead them to think about ways they can express virtue in their personal lives. Following a discussion on the virtue of humility, Mia Whipple—all on her own, without encouragement and without telling her mother—got up early in the morning, emptied the dishwasher and started to make the day's lunch.

"It's encouraging to see them gain more awareness of the people around them," says Carpanzano.

When they bring their wreath of virtues home for the summer, its bright flowers will remind the girls every day, "Love is something we do."

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT FROM PAGE 37

was the first to identify the pyramids in the shots of earth taken from the space shuttle, and got a NASA patch from Melvin for her quick answer. She's already set for her own space voyage. "I want to go to Mars," she says. "I want to find a new species of animal there."

Astronaut Melvin's youngest fan, first grader Jesús Rivas, is already set on space exploration. His father had brought in a poster of the solar system, so that Jesús could give his class a presentation of the solar system. "The sun is not a planet," he said with authority. "It's a star." After naming

the planets in order, he added the planet Pluto, giving a spirited defense of the dwarf planet. "It's smaller than Mercury, maybe about the size of the moon, but it is definitely a planet."

For his interest and knowledge, Jesús, too, received a NASA patch.

Melvin had a couple of knowledgeable enthusiasts waiting at his last stop at the St. Augustine Academy campus. When fifth graders Chad Elie and Zaymar Clarke learned that Leland Melvin was coming to St. Augustine, they could barely contain their excitement. "Did

you just say Leland Melvin!" Chad asked Principal Debi Boccafuso. "I just did a report on him."

The boys asked Melvin to autograph copies of the report. "He's my astronaut!" Chad said proudly.

(Astronaut Leland Melvin came to the Cathedral Academy thanks to the effort and generosity of Paul and Anne-Marie Queally, who were classmates of his at the University Richmond. Melvin has just completed Chasing Space, a memoir about overcoming obstacles, persevering and realizing his dreams. There is both an adult and a young reader's edition.)

A SAMPLING OF THE
CLASS OF 2017
College Matriculations

Fairfield College
Preparatory School
www.FairfieldPrep.org