



FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC

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Leadership Summit: Catechesis

People in ministry must become lifelong learners

By ELIZABETH CLYONS

“What does effective learning look like in a digitally connected world? How are we helping youth take information and transform it into knowledge and wisdom? How are we engaging our communities in faith in a digital way?” asked Charlotte McCorquodale, president of Ministry Training Source.

Speaking at a Leadership Summit held on June 20 in the Queen of Saints Hall at the Catholic Center to more than 150 catechists and others involved in ministry in the diocese, Dr. McCorquodale urged those currently serving in ministry to become lifelong learners and to understand the impact of new technologies on young people.

Dr. McCorquodale, an international educator, researcher and consultant for the fields of lay ecclesial ministry, discussed *Going, Going, Gone: The Dynamics of Disaffiliation in Young Catholics* published by St. Mary's Press, a new study which gives insight into why young people might be leaving the Church.

“Increasingly young Catholics



ENGAGING FAITH COMMUNITIES—Ministers must embrace a new vision of learning and leadership, said Dr. Charlotte McCorquodale, educator and researcher in the field of ecclesial ministry at the recent Leadership Summit. She spoke to more than 150 catechists and parish ministers recently in the Queen of Saints Hall of the Catholic Center.

(PHOTOS BY AMY MORTENSEN)

are weakly attached to the Church,” Dr. McCorquodale said, presenting a challenge to her listeners to recreate the world around them in order to reincorporate those who have become unaffiliated.

The Leadership Summit was

held to discuss the progress of Bishop Frank J. Caggiano's invitation to Lifelong Faith Formation and how the Diocese of Bridgeport is working to meet the needs of each and every parish.

Members of the diocese who serve in many different ministries at their respective parishes were able to hear about programs and initiatives that are available to them and those they serve.

Patrick Donovan of the diocesan Leadership Institute kicked off the evening by addressing the fact that those who serve in ministry are an eclectic audience made up of a number of different specializations and

age groups.

“We share ministry, we need to make sure we share information,” Donovan told the gathering.

In the keynote talk, Dr. McCorquodale explained that at the heart of ministry is storytelling, meaning we are both storytellers and witnesses to those we serve.

Ministry leaders were able to interactively answer questions about what learning means, how learning has changed in today's world and what this means for the modern learner.

Dr. McCorquodale described learning as “the making of meaning,” and encouraged all gathered to recognize that they are all lifelong learners. She then went on to explain that the growing influence of technology has changed the way that we think and learn, as well as our relationships and

the way we relate to one another.

The speaker also drew examples from the book *The Fifth Discipline* by Peter Senge, which discusses practices of becoming a learning organization.

Dr. McCorquodale explained that real learning starts with experience, and that it is important to transform information in a way that encourages and invites others into an experience. She encouraged the audience to embrace creative tension, because it creates energy for change and growth and it is then that a transformation can take place.

Ministers must embrace a new vision of leadership and help those they serve by being designers and stewards of learning, and they do this by being lifelong learners themselves, continually deepening and broadening their personal vision, she said.

In her closing remarks Dr. McCorquodale encouraged those gathered, emphasizing that they are not alone in ministry and are supported by the Diocese of Bridgeport, the Leadership Institute and the different programs and initiatives it provides.

During the evening, those in attendance also heard updates on Safe Environments, communication policies and best practices, The Face of Prayer 2.0, new liturgical norms and ways that the Diocese of Bridgeport plans to encourage ongoing formation for all.

Ministry leaders were able to gather information about these programs, ask any questions and meet and discuss with other ministry leaders.

(For information on upcoming Leadership Institute summits and other programs, visit www.formation-reimagined.org)



ON THE COVER

BIBLE SCHOOL—Young people enjoy Vacation Bible School activities at St. Mary Parish in Bethel. The Bible School gave the young people an opportunity to grow in the faith while enjoying summer and making new friends. Other parishes also offered programs, which have been growing in popularity. (story on page 6) (PHOTOS BY AMY MORTENSEN)

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Latest News

Report helps plan for National V Encuentro

By PAT HENNESSY

“Leadership training is key,” says Father Gustavo Falla, episcopal vicar for Hispanics. “We need trained lay leaders who will take more ownership of their faith.”

Father Falla, the pastor of St. Mary and St. Benedict/Nuestra Señora de Montserrat parishes in Stamford, is heading the V Encuentro in this diocese. This Fifth Encuentro has been a four-year process, from its preliminary planning and development through the formation of parish and diocesan teams. With the encouragement of Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, parish delegates met for a diocesan Encuentro this past February at St. Mary Parish in Stamford, and 50 delegates attended the Regional Encuentro in Hartford on March 10. This diocese is part of Region I, which encompasses all New England.

In late September, ten delegates from this diocese will attend the National V Encuentro conference in Texas.

The first National Encuentro was held in 1972. The Spanish word translates as “Encounter,” a chance for people from all over the United States to explore their similarities, differences and challenges. “It was an opportunity for the Spanish-speaking community to gather and share their experiences in the American Church,” explains Father Falla. “After exchanging information, they came to the evaluation that

they were not doing too well.”

In the aftermath of that first national meeting, and aware that other minority groups in the Church reported a similar experience, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops opened the Office for Multicultural Affairs, with a division for Hispanic Ministry. The most recent national meeting, in 2006, focused on pastoral outreach to youth.

The main goal of the V Encuentro is to discover how the Church in the United States can better respond to the Hispanic presence, and to strengthen the ways in which Spanish-speaking Catholics respond to the call to become missionary disciples serving the entire Church.

To help with both aspects of that challenge, the Regional Encuentro in March gathered demographic, social and religious statistics for each participating diocese. Father Falla helped with the report for the Diocese of Bridgeport, which held some surprising results.

The overwhelming majority of Spanish-speaking residents in Fairfield County were either born here or have become U.S. citizens. They are, by and large, working-class families with a stable income. More than half are fluent in English, with the elderly having the greatest problem with the language. As with any population, the spread includes wealthy families and those who are struggling; sadly, ten percent



LISTENING TO CONCERNS—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano heard from Spanish-speaking Catholics in preparation for the Fourth Diocesan Synod. Now, in an ongoing initiative sponsored by the USCCB, delegates to the V Encuentro will share their observations at a national meeting in Texas. (*Para español, véase la página 21.*)

of children in Hispanic families live below the poverty level.

The report shows an area of concern for the life of faith in this diocese. Only 47 percent of Hispanics in Fairfield County consider themselves Catholics. This comes at a time when the Spanish-speaking population is experiencing strong growth, while the number of English-speaking families is decreasing. About one out of every five Catholics in the Diocese of Bridgeport is Hispanic. There are 18 parishes with an organized Hispanic ministry, and 18 Spanish-speaking priests are active in the diocese.

That is approximately one priest for every 5,000 Hispanic Catholics. The phrase “not doing too well” is appropriate.

In this context Pope Francis’

words on Missionary Discipleship come into high relief. “All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelization, and it would be insufficient to envisage a plan of evangelization to be carried out by professionals while the rest of the faithful would simply be passive recipients. The new evangelization calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptized.”

The V Encuentro is designed to achieve this goal. The national meeting will suggest recommendations stemming from the parish and diocesan Encuentros and include tools to help the delegates identify the most important needs, and it hopes to provide resources and support at every level in the Church.

“This is an opportunity to see what is really going on with our people,” says Father Falla. “So far, it tells us that we need to build properly trained and empowered laity with a sense of leadership and service to the community.”

He notes that this aim matches exactly the findings of the Fourth Diocesan Synod, which also reported the need for informed lay leaders. One of the fruits of the synod has been the diocesan Leadership Institute. In the future, Father Falla hopes that some of the programs the institute is developing will be available in Spanish.

“We have to work with one another. Spanish-speaking people bring so much to the expression of our faith: public professions like those on Good Friday, an intense pro-life experience, and strong family values. Building on this base of faith, we need people trained in youth ministry, in assistance to the elderly and—most of all—in outreach to those Catholics on the periphery.”

No matter what the language, and no matter what strengths and needs any given group brings to the Church, lay leadership is key to a strong and growing faith in the Diocese of Bridgeport and throughout the country. Pope Francis’ words sum up what the V Encuentro, and the Fourth Diocesan Synod, are all about. “Every Christian is challenged, here and now, to be actively engaged in evangelization... to go out and proclaim God’s saving love.” ■

Blue Mass moves to St. Joseph, Danbury

BRIDGEPORT—The Annual Diocesan Blue Mass honoring Fire, Police and First Responders will be held on Sunday, September 9, 10:30 am at St. Joseph Church, 370 Main Street in Danbury.

A reception immediately following Mass will be held in the school gym on the parish grounds.

The Mass will commemorate the 17th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the U.S. on 9-11.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano will be the main celebrant along with diocesan priests who serve as police and fire chaplains in

Fairfield County. Fr. Charles Allen, special assistant to the President of Fairfield University, is serving as chairman of the event.

Law Enforcement, Fire and Emergency Medical Service personnel of all faiths in Fairfield County along with members of the general public are invited to attend the Mass and reception.

“This is the first time the bishop has offered to celebrate the Blue Mass in the Danbury area. We’re deeply honored that he will do so at St. Joseph’s,” said Fr. Samuel Scott, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Danbury.

Fr. Scott said that after last year’s Blue Mass at St. Matthew Parish in Norwalk, he spoke to Bishop Caggiano about the tremendous and heroic work of the law enforcement, firefighters and first responders in the Danbury area.

“At the Blue Mass, we will hold up in prayer all the law enforcement personnel, firefighters and first responders who put themselves in harm’s way for us. We thank them profoundly for their service to God and to their country,” Fr. Scott said.

The Blue Mass has grown into a moving and memorable com-

memoration of the courage and commitment of the uniformed personnel who protect the health and safety of people every day of the year in Fairfield County.

The Fairfield County Councils and Assemblies of the Knights of Columbus is sponsoring the Mass again this year.

Chaplains of the Fairfield County Fire, Police and Emergency Medical Service Departments include Rev. Charles H. Allen, S.J., Fairfield Town Emergency Services; Rev. Sudhir DSouza, Norwalk Police Department; Msgr. Laurence R. Bronkiewicz,

Ridgefield Police Department; Msgr. Stephen M. DiGiovanni, Stamford Police Department; Rev. Bruce Roby, Stratford Fire Department; Rev. Thomas P. Thorne, Westport Police and Fire Departments and Federal Bureau of Investigation; Rev. Francis T. Hoffmann, Noroton Fire Department; Rev. Christopher Perrella, Noroton Heights Fire Department; Deacon John J. Moranski, Bridgeport Police Department; Deacon William D. Murphy, Germantown Fire Department; Rev. Samuel V. Scott, Danbury

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

National News

Bishop named delegate to Vatican Synod on youth

WASHINGTON—Pope Francis has ratified the members elected by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to represent the United States at the upcoming XV Ordinary General Assembly: Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment. The Synod will take place October 3-28.

The delegates are:

- **Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo**, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
- **Archbishop José H. Gomez**, Archdiocese of Los Angeles, Vice President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
- **Archbishop Charles J. Chaput**,

O.F.M. Cap., Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth

- **Bishop Frank J. Caggiano**, Diocese of Bridgeport, member of the USCCB Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth.

- **Auxiliary Bishop Robert E. Barron**, Archdiocese of Los Angeles, Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis

The XV Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops has been convened by the Holy Father, Pope Francis, along with the Vatican Synod Office. In preparation for this Synod, the USCCB and other episcopal conferences, as well as ecclesial movements, asso-

ciations, and experts in the field, were consulted throughout 2017 on the topic of “young people, the faith, and vocational discernment.” In addition, the Vatican collected responses from an online questionnaire aimed at youth and young adults conducted last year. In March 2018, over 300 young adult delegates gathered in Rome, where Pope Francis convened a pre-synod gathering to listen directly to the voice of young people from around the world. The gathering produced a Final Pre-Synodal document.

The Working Document (*Instrumentum Laboris*) for the October Synod was released in late June 2018 and includes a summary of all the Synod consultations to date. It describes the purpose of the 2018 Synod of Bishops as an opportunity for the Church “to accom-



pany all young people, without exception, towards the joy of love,” realizing that “taking care of young people is not an optional task for the Church, but an integral part of her vocation and mission in history.”

Cardinal Joseph Tobin, C.Ss.R., of Newark, Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, and Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., of Philadelphia, Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, welcomed the recent release of the Synod Working Document, saying:

“After a lively discussion with our brother bishops at the Spring

2018 General Assembly on the topic of the Synod, we are happy to receive this *Instrumentum Laboris*, and look forward to exploring how it sheds light on the pastoral challenges of the United States. The 2018 Synod will powerfully renew the Catholic Church’s engagement with youth and young adults, and provide a deeper understanding of vocational discernment.”

The official Vatican website for the Synod, which is inclusive of the Pre-Synod gathering, is www.synod2018.va/content/synod2018/en.html.

The official USCCB webpage for the Synod is www.usccb.org/synod-2018.

THE ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL NEVER TAKES A VACATION!



This Summer the programs and services supported by the Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) are at work every day, reaching out to the hungry, homeless, and to entire diocesan families in so many ways:

- **26 YOUNG ADULTS** traveled to the Holy Land with Bishop Caggiano for a scripture immersion program organized by the Leadership Institute, resulting in a life-changing encounter with the living Gospel.
- **FR. JAMES BATES** was ordained to the priesthood and is now ministering at St. Jude Parish in Monroe.
- **THREE MEN WERE ORDAINED** permanent deacons and have received their assignments: Deacon Joseph Huong, The Cathedral Parish, Bridgeport; Deacon Joseph Koletar, St. James Parish, Stratford; and Deacon David Rivera, St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Bridgeport.
- **THREE SEMINARIANS** took the final step toward priesthood when they were ordained as transitional deacons: Reverend Mr. Peter Adamski, St. Elizabeth Seton; Reverend Mr. Christopher Ford, St. Gregory the Great, Danbury, and Reverend Mr. David Roman, St. Michael the Archangel, Greenwich.
- **22 PRIESTS** who have given a lifetime of service to the diocese are living in the newly expanded Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of the Clergy Residence.
- **CATHOLIC CHARITIES SOUP KITCHENS** are a refuge from the heat in Danbury, Bridgeport, and Stamford — offering a cool, safe space and a nutritious meal for the poor and hungry.
- **HUNDREDS OF PARENTS** throughout the diocese are breathing a little easier knowing that their sons and daughters are enrolled in Catholic schools this Fall because of financial assistance available through the Bishop’s Scholarship Fund.

Please don't take a vacation from the Appeal; your gift makes this all possible. If you haven't made your gift to the Annual Appeal, now is the time to do it. Please join our generous donors who have already contributed to the quality of life and good work of faith in Fairfield County.

For more information please email us at:
2018ACA@diobpt.org or call: 203-416-1470.

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Priest Retirements

'This is what I was meant to be'

By PAT HENNESSY

"Pastors retire—priests don't," Father Richard Gennaro Cipolla said in his final sermon as pastor of St. Mary Parish in Norwalk. "I shall do in the future what priests are called to do: to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and to minister to people."

Father Cipolla, 76, officially retired as pastor of St. Mary Parish in Norwalk on June 30. He had been pastor there since 2015 and as parochial vicar since 2007, serving over a decade at the parish. Ordained by Bishop Walter W. Curtis in St.

Augustine Cathedral on January 28, 1984, Father Cipolla, a former Episcopal clergyman, was the first married priest ordained for the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Growing up in Rhode Island, he attended Classical High School, a public magnet school in the City of Providence, and earned a master's degree in chemical engineering and a Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from the University of Rhode Island.

He had been baptized a Methodist but was confirmed in the Episcopal Church. When he responded to God's call, he studied at Yale Divinity School and

A LIFE CENTERED on the Eucharist—Father Richard Cipolla, retired pastor of St. Mary Parish in Norwalk, begins each day with the celebration of the Mass in his home chapel.

received a D.Phil. in sacramental theology from Oxford University.

He received his Episcopal ordination in 1971 in Rhode Island, and had been married for 14 years when he requested permission from Pope John Paul II to become a Roman Catholic priest. His wife Cathie and their two young children were on hand for his priestly ordination in St. Augustine's.

Father Cipolla's first assign-



FATHER RICHARD GENNARO CIPOLLA

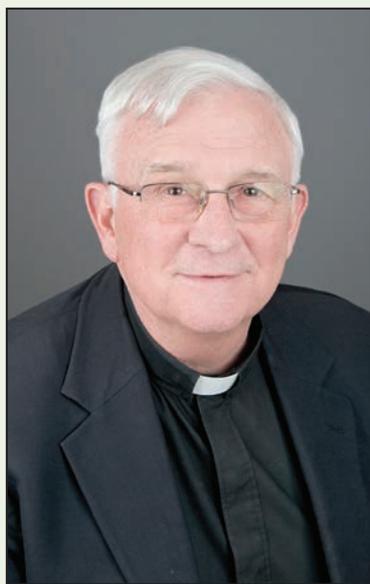
Called to love, called to serve

"See a face, learn a name, hear a story, and love one another out of that story..." This slogan appeared on the front of the St. James Bulletin each week as a reminder for parishioners that, as Father Tom Lynch always says, "The essence of all life is relationships—with one another and with our God."

It has been the core belief on which Father Lynch built his ministry, shaping St. James during his nearly 31 years there as pastor. This was evidenced every time Father Tom processed down the aisle, making eye contact with all of his flock, pausing to shake hands, offering a smile or a reassuring touch, always inviting a deeper connection.

Over his 47 years in the priesthood this vision has become ever clearer. As a young priest he learned that the only way to change lives was to be open and vulnerable with those to whom he tried to minister. "To stand with people in their lived experience—to understand before you stand, validating the experience of others before you try to guide anyone..." This has been Father Tom's mantra.

Locally born and raised, he attended the former Blessed Sacrament School in Bridgeport and Notre Dame Catholic High School in Fairfield before entering St. Thomas seminary in Bloomfield. He completed his theological studies at St. Bernard Seminary in Rochester,



FATHER TOM LYNCH

N.Y., and was ordained in St. Augustine Cathedral on May 15, 1971, by Bishop Walter W. Curtis.

He earned an advanced degree in pastoral counseling at Iona College and completed his doctoral studies in Ministry. He was intrigued with family dynamics, which opened the door to his work with engaged couples in their marriage preparation. He was soon appointed diocesan family life director, and from there went on to a national position as a Marriage and Family Life Representative for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB). During his tenure he guided and shaped one of the bishops' documents titled, "A Family Perspective" that outlined the ways that ministry

impacts family life.

Despite all of this experience, "My greatest teachers were the people I ministered to," he says. "They helped me recognize and respect the beauty and complexity of relationships and the challenges inherent in them." He also saw how difficult it is to navigate the pitfalls of life without a deep, mature relationship with God.

When Father Tom became pastor of St. James in July of 1987, he brought with him his passion for building relationships. He developed a program for married couples called "The Marriage Vineyard" that provided couples with tools to deepen the intimacy of their relationships with one another and with their God. With all the faithful, he instilled the idea that the Eucharist is all about "communion"—being "one with" not only God, but with one another.

Liturgy at St. James reflected all of this through the active participation of all present in the way that they prayed, sang and celebrated together. This communion extended beyond the pew and into the community through acts of charity and social justice. One example is the parish food pantry that provides 60-90 bags of groceries every week to those in need. Another initiative called "Disciples' Way" challenged parishioners in practical, tangible ways to live the radical demands of the Gospel in their community and beyond.

As Father Tom says, "You

can obey the commandments and still not live the message of the Gospel as indicated in the Beatitudes. We're called to be so much more than simply 'good people.' We're called to love, to serve and to forgive unconditionally. To become active peacemakers who advocate for the poor and the marginalized. And we can only do that with the support of our God and a strong, engaged community of faith."

Over the past several years, Father Tom co-wrote a book with author Barbara Mariconda titled *After the Diagnosis...A Guide for Living*, subtitled "The Transformative Power of Love During Sickness, Dying and Death." The book, published in April and available on Amazon, continues the theme of relationships during the challenges of loss, suffering, sickness and dying.

"My goal is to begin a new conversation around the subject—to empower loved ones to engage in open, honest and loving conversations about the last and most significant part of life that is often mired in a cloak of silence and misunderstanding."

Father Tom will be spending his retirement spreading the message of the book to new audiences. "God's work is never done," he says, and quoting one of his heroes, St. Therese, the Little Flower. "My greatest work is ahead of me." ■

ment was to St. Ann Parish in the Black Rock section of Bridgeport. He also served at St. Aloysius Parish in New Canaan and St. Mary Parish, Stamford. Supporting his family, he also taught chemistry, physics and calculus at Fairfield Prep and chemistry and calculus at Fairfield University.

When he became chaplain for the Sisters of the Convent of St. Birgitta in Darien, he taught Latin at Brunswick School, a college preparatory school in Greenwich, becoming chair of the Classics department.

When requests for the return of a traditional Latin Mass became frequent, Bishop Edward M. Egan tapped Father Cipolla to fulfill that need. With the encouragement of Father Richard Futie, pastor of St. Mary Parish in Stamford, he started celebrating a traditional Latin Mass there. "That's been my guiding force ever since," he says. "This is what I was meant to be as a priest."

The traditional Mass, "the Mass of the Ages," is the heart and soul of St. Mary's in Norwalk. "Its spirit infuses the whole parish and its beauty spills over to all Masses celebrated here, whether in English or in Spanish," Father Cipolla says.

In his final sermon, Father Cipolla preached on the beauty of friendship. "I have been so blessed in my twelve years at St. Mary's with the blessing of friendship," he told his congregation. "Nothing can take away the joy I know this day and every day, that joy that is founded on what you and I do here in this Mass: to offer up Love to Love." ■

Parish News

Prayer and fun at Vacation Bible School

By MICHELLE P. ONOFRIO

With summer in full swing in the diocese, many parishes have created activities that combine summer fun with the opportunity for children to discover and grow in their faith. Vacation Bible Schools mix summer camp and faith in a fun, interactive and enjoyable experience that engages young people in understanding the Catholic faith.

The Bible Schools are also a way for pre-teens, teens and adults to get involved in their parish communities through volunteering.

St. Mary Parish in Bethel just wrapped up this year's Bible School, and it was "fabulous," according to Mary Ferri, Director of Religious Education.

Sixty children, ranging from

the ages of 3 to 10, participated in the camp, where they opened each day in prayer, viewed video skit performances, made crafts, sang and danced to music, played games and listened to Bible stories, all relating to the camp's theme: "Son Rock."

The focus of this theme was salvation, with emphasis on their ability to turn to Jesus whenever they need.

Another popular Bible School theme this year is "Shipwrecked." The children imagine they are "on a deserted island" for the week, but to "have no fear because Jesus always saves," says Patricia Nettleton, Director of Religious Education (DRE) at St. Mark Parish in Stratford.

To showcase this theme, the camp will feature a raft with a tat-

tered sail that will be patched with pieces of paper bearing descriptions of "God-sightings." Throughout the week, children will be invited to "look for Jesus everywhere," says Nettleton, "in kindness, in nature, then remember what they saw and write it down."

By the end of the week, the sail will be repaired by the presence of God in the lives of the children.

St. Mark's has not held a Bible School for six years, as their facilities have recently undergone structural repairs. Nettleton is very much enthusiastic about and looking forward to this year's camp.

Laura Robertson of St. Mark's has had three of her children participate in Bible School in the past. This year, they will be helping as volunteers. As a parent, she believes the camp is "definitely



ST. MARY PARISH, BETHEL—Sixty children from 3 to 10 years old participated in the St. Mary's Bible School this summer. Their days were filled with games, activities, crafts and prayer. Campers were taught that they could turn to Jesus whenever they needed help.

worthwhile." They usually sell out and have 100 children in attendance. "For me, the best part is seeing campers excited to come back as helpers and be role models to the younger campers," she says.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Ridgefield is also employing the "Shipwrecked" theme in their Bible School. "I hope the children realize that Jesus is there for them," said camp director Ellen Adamski.

She is also enthusiastic about children developing friendships through fellowship within the parish. She says their Bible School is unique in that it is open to middle school students and is a wonderful opportunity for them to grow in their faith, too.

Parents of campers also attest to this. Mary Ann Paladino of St. Elizabeth's has had children attend and volunteer with Bible School for many years (her family has been involved since her oldest, who is now in college, was in kindergarten). She says the Bible School is "a wonderful community that is enjoyable and welcoming for the children. It's a week of joy and growing in the faith where the kids learn about Jesus and have fun while doing so."

St. Matthew Parish in Norwalk

recently concluded their summer Bible School (the theme was also "Shipwrecked"), as well as St. Rose of Lima Parish in Newtown (whose theme was "Parade Around the Our Father").

At St. Jude Parish in Monroe, 67 students and teen teachers participated in the Vacation Bible School. Each morning began with prayer offered by their pastor, Father Henry Hoffman or their newly-ordained priest, Father Jim Bates, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Sister Melanie Hannigan, OP, was the Scripture storyteller. The children then did Bible lessons from material of the day.

"The program largely centered on a water theme, i.e. Moses in the River, John the Baptist, baptizing, etc.," said Karin Tierney. "Our crafts and games reinforced the Scripture of the day."

Each grade learned a song from our program, 'Splash Canyon,' which we presented in our closing ceremony."

In keeping with our theme, one of the highlights of the week was the waterslide, which kids and staff "absolutely loved," said Tierney.

(Check the Diocese of Bridgeport website to find a Bible School taking place near you.)

ST. MARGARET SHRINE RECOGNIZED AS NATIONAL DESTINATION

"The St. Margaret Shrine in Bridgeport, Connecticut, might be the only large-scale shrine in the United States dedicated to St. Margaret of Antioch, a late third-century/early fourth-century martyr..." St. Margaret Shrine Offers Oasis for Prayer in Connecticut

Joseph Pronechen, National Catholic Register

"The 1940s-'50s parishioners and relatives who were artisans and craftsmen fashioned and carved many parts of the shrine, such as this altar and the terrazzo terrace. Their skills, and those of others, continue this heritage today."

So much was accomplished so quickly at St. Margaret's, often unplanned. The Lourdes Grotto on the sylvan hillside and ledges, dedicated in October 1943, came about unexpectedly. When rocks were blasted, one charge shaped a high ledge into this grotto reminiscent of the one in Lourdes, France. Visitors reach the prayerful place by following one of the broad stone staircases and paths, all completed in European-styled masonry.

Swathed in trees and shrubbery and flowers in season, the hillside and ledges provide a serene place of prayer."

To read the full article visit the National Catholic Register: www.ncregister.com

Saint Margaret's Shrine: 2523 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604-1402

Phone: (203) 333-9627 Email: saintmargaretshrine@gmail.com

Website: www.ParishesOnLine.com/StMargaretShrine

Masses: Mon.-Sat. 8:15am • Sat. Vigil 4pm • Sun. 8am, 9:30am (Italian) 11am

What does a Vocation to the Religious Life Look Like?

- Single Practicing Catholic
- Serious about Prayer
- Involved in Parish Life
- Likes Serving Others
- Happy, but Wondering If It Were Possible to Do More for Christ... Like, Maybe Full Time...

"Zat You?"
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St. Mary Parish, Bridgeport

Retreat brings day of prayer at Lourdes Grotto

BRIDGEPORT—More than 300 faithful from St. Mary's Parish in Bridgeport and points beyond turned out for the recent one-day retreat to Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto in Litchfield.

Amanecer y Atardecer con Cristo was a one-day pilgrimage that took the parishioners to the Grotto located just below the historic Litchfield center green.

"It was a unique experience that allowed us to unify with nature in prayer," says Fr. Rolando Torres, St. Mary's Pastor.

"Originally we only expected about 100 parishioners and we thought that many were not going to answer, because of summertime and families being on vacation, but how wrong we were," says Fr. Torres.

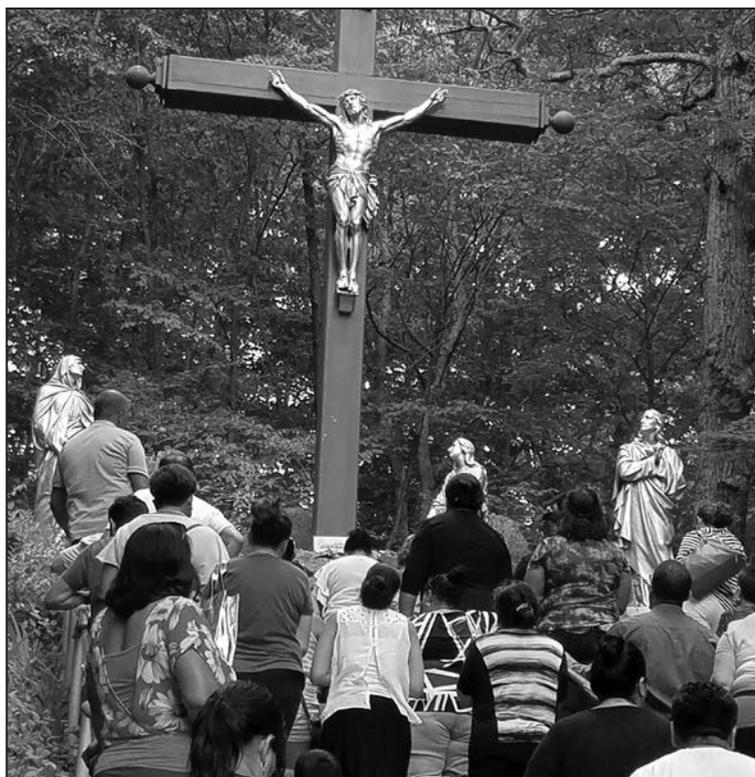
Fr. Torres said the idea for a retreat in a natural setting first

arose during his time as vicar in St. Mary's in Greenwich. During the five years he worked with the Hispanic community there, they gathered in Bruce Park and it was a total success, he recalls.

In 2018, after having been the Pastor of St. Mary's in Bridgeport for three years, he decided to try again and to have this experience with his community but on another level.

"God led us to this big and beautiful place, so we arrived at the Grotto for a very special day of prayer and celebration guided by the Fathers of the Montford Missionaries."

Fr. Torres said the retreat drew parishioners from all different parts of the Diocese: Bridgeport, Norwalk, Stamford, and even from New York and Hartford.



Despite the heat and humidity, the pilgrims felt blessed with a beautiful day—and plenty of shade on the Grotto ground. The day, that began at 8 am and ended at 6 pm with the Holy Eucharist, "was just amazing," Fr. Torres says.

"Needless to say, God was with us at every moment. We are grateful for all those who shared their time, talent, and treasure—from the people who helped with breakfast and lunch, to those who cooperated with the rosary, cleaning and even the music," said Fr. Torres.

"It was a total blessing. The day was beautiful and we were able to share the word of God, eat together, pray together, sing together and bless the Lord together, as brother and sisters, praising Him in every creation," he says.



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A MINISTRY OF THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT

Diocesan News

Diocesan youth take 'SHU Journey' to deepen faith

By ELIZABETH CLYONS

On June 26, the second day of SHU Journey 2018, high school students are gathered in a Sacred Heart University classroom to discuss what it means to be servant leaders.

With notebooks and pens ready, they are attentive and ready to engage. Dr. June-Ann Greeley told students, "We are called to be leaders; we are called to be servants."

They discuss how service and leadership are integral parts of the spiritual journey. Students also discussed Christ's perfect love and what one can learn from that. Drawing examples from St. John Paul II, St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, and St. Francis of Assisi, students discussed how, especially as Catholics, we are called to be servant leaders in our everyday lives.

"I think good leaders are servants. You should be leading by

example, as Jesus washed the feet of the apostles," a student explained. "If we are giving of ourselves, if we are acting like Jesus, that is how we are showing perfect love," another student added.

Faith, learning, identity and community are all encompassed in the six-day residential summer experience that is Sacred Heart University Journey.

Six college student leaders from Sacred Heart University



LEARNING TO BE SERVANT LEADERS—Twenty-four teens throughout the diocese took the "SHU Journey" this summer, a six-day residential experience to explore their faith and enjoy fellowship at Sacred Heart University. The journey integrates faith, leadership and fun for young people.

serve as mentors to twenty-four high school students from around the diocese as they dive deeper into their faith education,

self-discovery and leadership. Students participate in faith instruction, small group discussion, community service, music ministry, prayer and reflection. Participants also hear from keynote speakers, both lay and religious, who are Catholic leaders around the diocese.

SHU Journey, a Lilly Endowment Summer Theological Institute for High School Youth, focuses on viewing God and the world through the Catholic intellectual tradition and how this applies to their lives. The Lilly Endowment provides grants to Catholic and Christian colleges of other denominations to run similar institutes around the country.

The goals of the program are to educate students in faith and help them relate what they learn to their lives and the greater world, and to foster the ability for them to become leaders in their faith.

"SHU Journey is a great opportunity to work with high school students and a way to integrate both faith, leadership and the fun of a typical summer camp," says Anthony, a junior at Sacred Heart University and SHU Journey mentor, whose involvement in campus ministry inspired him to apply to the program.

Sierra O'Keefe, a recent graduate from Notre Dame Catholic High School and alumna of SHU Journey, said, "I was fortunate enough to attend Sacred Heart Journey two years in a row. SHU Journey not only taught us about our faith, but allowed us to express our faith, whether it be through the service we did or the classroom discussion we had. It helped me make more friends in Christ and gave us the leadership skills necessary to show Christ to others. It was so much fun and I would encourage all who have the opportunity to participate." ■

Melkite Patriarch visits his flock

By PAT HENNESSY

"How great are your works, O Lord!"

With chant and incense, prayers and Psalms, the people of St. Ann Melkite Greek Catholic Parish in Danbury welcomed the head of their church, Patriarch Joseph Asbi, to an Order of Great Vespers to celebrate the Feast of St. Ann.

"Patriarch Joseph has come to meet his people here, to encourage us and to strengthen the bonds between us," said Father Michael Skrocki, St. Ann's pastor.

Patriarch Joseph, Patriarch of Antioch and head of Melkite Greek Catholics worldwide, visited St. Ann's on July 13 and led the Vesper Service that evening. He had been installed as Patriarch of Antioch in 2017; this was his first visit to parishes in the United States.

At this point, a little clarification is in order. The majority of Catholics in the United States are Roman (Latin rite) Catholics. But the universal church has about 14 rites. "St. Ann's is an Eastern Catholic Church in union with Rome," explains Father Skrocki.

"Melkites follow the Byzantine Rite and have a rich history and tradition expressed in the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom and other celebrations and sacraments. We are a parish family of

diverse backgrounds although our historical roots are in the Middle East."

Their foundation goes all the way back to the earliest days

of Antioch, Patriarch Joseph is St. Peter's direct successor.

"His visit reminds us that we are all brothers and sisters in faith," said Father Skrocki.



PATRIARCH JOSEPH ASBI—The Patriarch (left) visited St. Ann Melkite Greek Church in Danbury recently and presided over an Order of Great Vespers. Patriarch Joseph is Patriarch of Antioch and head of Melkite Greek Catholics worldwide. It was his first visit to the U.S. since being elevated in 2017.

of the Church. St. Peter himself established the Church in Antioch when he was driven to that city by persecution of the followers of Jesus in Jerusalem. He was the city's first bishop, leaving eventually to found the Church in Rome. It was in Antioch that the followers of Jesus were first called "Christians." As Patriarch

Coming in early July, Patriarch Joseph first attended a national Youth Conference in Houston. Following his visit to Melkite parishes in the New England region, he headed out to others in California.

"I came here to get to know you better, and to put ourselves at your service," Patriarch

Joseph told the congregation at St. Ann's. "You are in the heart and mind of the Mother Church."

In keeping with their heritage, the Vespers Service was chanted and sung in both Greek and English, and included the beautiful Psalm 116: "Praise the Lord, all you nations, exalt him, all you peoples."

Although Patriarch Joseph was born in Damascus, Syria, he is a naturalized American citizen. His mother and many of his family live in California. He hoped to visit them when his pastoral trip reached the west coast of the U.S.

"Our faithful are spread throughout the United States," noted Bishop Nicholas J. Samra, bishop of the Eparchy (diocese) of Newton, which has its chancery in Massachusetts but includes the entire U.S.

"Our roots are in the Near East, but our richness is that we are not limited to one area. We are universal. Patriarch Joseph's visit gives him the chance to meet with his people and pray with them, to keep the connection strong."

Following Vespers, Patriarch Joseph spoke to the congregation about the difficult conditions in the Near East. "Our Mother Church has suffered," he said. "Reach out to them, so that we will be one heart." ■

Youth Ministry

Fan the Fire Youth Rally coming soon

By PRISCILLA MAHAR

After a summer of camps, conferences, and an abundance of pizza provided by your local youth minister, one might wonder how much better a summer in the Diocese of Bridgeport could get for a Fairfield County teen. The answer is to close out a busy summer with a day encompassing all the ways we are called to imitate Christ—Fan the Fire Youth Rally.

On Saturday, August 11, from 9:30 am to 10 pm, St. Rose of Lima Parish in Newtown will be hosting hundreds of teens for Fan the Fire. This year's theme for the youth rally is "Be Courageous," emphasizing the Lord's call for all of us to live radically and follow him. According to St. Rose youth minister Rodd Blessey, it is an event not to miss. "The 2018 Fan the Fire CT is going to be one of the best ever," stated Blessey. "We have an outstanding lineup of speakers and musicians including Chris Padgett and a comedy/music act Nun and Nunner."

Fan the Fire is a day for teens to reconnect with the Lord.

During the rally, participants will get the opportunity to listen to insightful talks based around living out the faith as a high school student, and take part in praise and worship, Mass, and Adoration.

Many teens attending the rally are frequent goers of parish youth groups, as well as other Catholic events held throughout the summer. For them, Fan the Fire will act as a reminder to keep pursuing the Lord, even once they're back at school.

For some, Fan the Fire may be the only time during the year when they are able to experience God in such a communal way. Being surrounded by peers who are visibly living out the faith is extremely important for young people in the Church. It serves as a reminder that they are not alone in this journey to heaven and that there are others like them who are striving for holiness.

"Our goal for this event is to allow teens to come together from all over the area to have fun while exploring their faith, develop their relationship with God and explore how their Catholic faith fits into their everyday lives," said Blessey explaining why so many leaders come out to serve the teens of the diocese for this event.

Many of those at St. Rose of Lima as well as throughout the diocese have felt the call to serve this great event. "I am so excited about this event returning to St. Rose this summer," Blessey said. "We have updated the schedule to allow for more priests to cel-



TEENS RECONNECTING WITH THE LORD—Fan the Fire Youth Rally, set for August 11 at St. Rose of Lima in Newtown, brings young people together for praise and worship. "Be Courageous" is the theme of this year's event, which will inspire hundreds of young people.

brate Mass with their teens in the morning, and musicians will include our St. Rose music min-

istry led by Kevin Donovan and Katie Keogler." Knights of Columbus, secu-

rity ministry and Walking with Purpose will also be providing their services to help throughout the day. Teens can also look forward to a service opportunity provided by Catholic Relief Services (CRS), where they will take part in packing 10,000 meals for those in need.

"This event doesn't happen without these amazing volunteers. God has big plans for Fan the Fire this summer!" Blessey says. "It's up to all of us to make personal invitations to our teens to join us for this experience. All are welcome!"

(*Fan the Fire will be held at St. Rose of Lima, 46 Church Hill Rd., Newtown. Cost is \$45 and students from grades 8-12 are welcome to attend. You can register online at fanthefirerally.com. For more information, contact Jessica Nayden: jnayden@diobpt.org or 203.416.1454.*)



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Humanae Vitae

Reexamining a Prophetic Encyclical at the Basilica!

By **JOE PISANI**

Fifty years after Blessed Pope Paul VI issued what one historian has called the most reviled and misunderstood Catholic document in modern history, a group of experts gathered to reexamine the encyclical *Humanae Vitae* in light of the social upheaval that has occurred since the sexual revolution.

The symposium, "Making Room for God's Love: *Humanae Vitae* at 50," was held at the Basilica of St. John the Evangelist in Stamford, and featured talks by leading Catholic thinkers, along with a presentation by a panel of medical experts.

"Fifty years later, we have a great opportunity to discuss this encyclical and what it means for us today," said Father Andrew Vill, the organizer of the event.

Pope Paul VI's seventh and last

encyclical, issued July 25, 1968, upheld the Church's teaching against artificial birth control, reaffirmed the sanctity of life and marital love, and emphasized the importance of responsible parenthood. The encyclical incited an immediate controversy among theologians, the laity and the clergy.

George Weigel, columnist and author of best-selling biographies of St. John Paul II and Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center, told the gathering of more than 200 men and women that "The encyclical landed at the worst possible moment in 20th century history." The sexual revolution had begun, and represented "a new kind of Galileo crisis for the Church, which demanded a response that had to be fresh and imaginative," he said.

Weigel talked about the role of John Paul II in drafting *Humanae*

Vitae and developing the "theology of the body," which has influenced Catholic thought in recent decades.

"It restores a sense of sacramentality to the body, which is not a machine, but an expression of who we are," he said. "The body makes visible the spiritual dimension of the human person."

The controversy over the encyclical intensified because Paul VI accepted the minority view of a commission studying artificial contraception, which included a contribution from John Paul II, then Archbishop Karol Wojtyla of Krakow. Archbishop Wojtyla had examined a draft of the encyclical and was critical of the document that had been prepared for Paul VI because it was a compilation of previous papal statements, Weigel said.

Archbishop Wojtyla recognized that one of the most urgent



COLUMNIST AND AUTHOR—George Weigel, best-selling biographer of St. John Paul II and Senior Fellow of the Ethnic and Public Policy Center, was one of the main speakers at the recent *Humanae Vitae* Symposium held at the Basilica of St. John the Evangelist in Stamford. More than 200 attended the event to reexamine the prophetic encyclical.

questions of our age involved love and the family and that the encyclical had to emphasize the importance of marital love and not just procreation and that it should stress "family planning is the means most congruent with human dignity, especially of women."

Fundamental to John Paul II's theology was the belief that "Our love is a truly human love when it is a gift of myself to another ... and not the use of another," which is the type of exploitation that characterizes the modern world's view of sexual relations.

Weigel told the audience, "We need to say on this 50th anniversary of *Humanae Vitae* that we are the ones who take this seriously.... We need to ask 'how do I live a life of sexual love that conforms to my dignity as a human person?'"

A panel of medical experts was moderated by Angela Marchetti, a Creighton natural family planning practitioner. They discussed the adverse effects of hormonal birth control, and the benefits of natural family planning and natural procreative technology to monitor women's health.

There is a growing appreciation for the lessons *Humanae Vitae* offers ... and what many believe were prophetic warnings that have come true since the sexual revolution erupted in the 1960s.

Mary Eberstadt, essayist, Senior Research Fellow at the Faith & Reason Institute and author of several books about religious freedom and faith, talked about what she called the "prophetic nature of *Humanae Vitae*."

Eberstadt, author of *Adam and Eve After the Pill: Paradoxes of the Sexual Revolution*, said that while the encyclical is the most reviled in the modern era, "It is the most explanatory document

of our time." Increased use of contraception, contrary to the thinking 50 years ago, has led to increased abortion even though the prevailing view back then had been "reliable birth control would prevent unwanted pregnancy."

There was also a seismic shift in male attitudes in the post-pill era, she said. Because of the toxicity of the sexual revolution, "pregnancy has become a woman's responsibility alone."

Mary Hallan FioRito, an attorney who specializes in human life issues and is the Cardinal Francis George Visiting Fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center, says there is a "General lack of understanding among Catholics about what *Humanae Vitae* says and means" and that the encyclical has been surrounded by "myths and misconceptions."

The prevailing attitude when the FDA approved oral contraception in 1960 was that "it would free women and the planet would be better off because fewer people would be polluting it." At the same time, opponents of abortion were told they should support contraception because it would make abortion unnecessary.

"However, the outcome was different," FioRito said. Instead, hormonal birth control has adverse side effects, there is sexual objectification, gender inequality and record low birth rates. In addition, abortion for purposes of sex selection has become commonplace, causing a serious imbalance between the number of men and women in countries like China.

Participants for the symposium were selected after Msgr. Stephen DiGiovanni suggested reaching out to Weigel, who was a former classmate of his. In his introduction, Weigel praised Msgr. DiGiovanni as "one of the great priests of his generation." ■

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Vocations

From 'Rock Dreams' to priestly calling

By **JOE PISANI**

Trevor Kelly thought his destiny was to be a rock star.

His mother, his father, his grandparents, his aunts, his uncles and his cousins, said he was meant to be a priest.

They were right. He was wrong.

Trevor, who teaches theology at St. Joseph High School and played in the band Eyes to See at Sacred Heart University, is entering the Jesuit novitiate in Syracuse this August and leaving behind his aspirations of rock 'n' roll fame.

His former bandmate Bill Haug, who is director of marketing at SHU's west campus, said, "Playing music with Trevor over the years has been a pleasure. There's no one else in the world that I have that kind musical chemistry with. I'll never forget the first time we played together. It was instant. We earned our chops together in our college band, playing gigs anywhere and everywhere. Most importantly, we grew as musicians, brothers and as people."

Most of Trevor's life seemed to point toward a career in music and the priesthood, from the time he became an altar server in the second grade through his years at Xavier High School in Middletown and Sacred Heart University, where he received his bachelor's and master's degrees in religious studies and philosophy.

"As a kid, I thought the priesthood was really attractive and admirable and heroic," he said, "but ..." It seemed there was always a 'but' even though God kept putting people in his path to inspire him, especially Father Thomas Cieslikowski, the parochial vicar at Our Lady of Fatima in Yalesville, which was Trevor's parish as a youth.

"Father Tom was so important to me as a role model in his preaching and proclaiming the Word," he said. "His example as a priest stuck with me. The Gospel stories came alive when he told them."

As fate—or Providence—would have it, Trevor saw him again for the first time in 20 years when he was recently concelebrating Mass at the Church of the Assumption in Ansonia, where

Trevor was singing.

As Father Tom tells the story, "I admired the young man who was singing, and I said to him, 'I don't know how much they're paying you, but if you come to my church, I'll pay you more.'"

Trevor realized immediately this was the priest who had such a tremendous influence on him as a boy—the man who during his children's liturgy had a teddy bear dressed up as a priest that told Gospel stories and the man whose example inspired Trevor to enter the Society of Jesus.

"I was very honored when he told me his story," Father Tom said. "We both teared up and hugged, and he took a selfie with me."

Despite his early interest in the priesthood, Trevor spent 20 years focused on another path.

"I felt very strongly that I was meant to be a dad and a musi-

cian, so I couldn't be a priest, and I began to shut the door on the priesthood," he recalled.

Since he was 16, he has worked in the Catholic Church in various ministries, including cantor, youth minister and catechist. He has also performed in many bands, singing groups and choirs. His first band as a teenager was Virgo Down, an alternative rock group in which he sang and played keyboard. His current

praise and worship ensemble, Joseph and the Saints, performs at Assumption in Ansonia.

Throughout his life, Trevor has had a love of music, which he got from his parents, Peter and Lisa, who encouraged their children to sing together as a family. However, when Trevor told them his dream was to be a rock star, they suggested he consider other options.

"They did everything to

talk me out of a career in rock music," he recalled. "They said I wouldn't make money and that I needed to find work that would pay better, so I continued to play but made a course correction when I went off to college."

His love of the Catholic Church, the liturgy and the sacraments, along with the example of his teachers at Xavier pointed him toward religious studies. Sacred Heart University had everything he was looking for.

"The moment I stepped on campus, I knew I was somewhere special," he said. "I was enchanted by the campus, and I enrolled there with the intention of being a religion teacher at a Catholic high school."

He found friends, educators and mentors in the Theology and Religious Studies, and Philosophy departments, and he studied in Ireland for two weeks with associate professor June-Ann Greeley.

Trevor graduated with a double major in religious studies and philosophy and a minor in music. At Sacred Heart, he also sang in the liturgical and concert choir, Four Heart Harmony and a chamber ensemble.

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 20



'ROCKIN' A VOCATION'—St. Joseph High School theology teacher Trevor Kelly is entering the Jesuit novitiate in Syracuse this August. He played in the band, Eyes to See, at Sacred Heart University and had dreams of becoming a "Rock Star" before making the decision that the priesthood offered a more heroic and exciting life.

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EDITORIAL

Fan the Fire

When you think of the many good things going on in the diocese this summer, it doesn't get much better than the annual "Fan the Fire" Youth Rally set for August 11, at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Newtown. Now in its 13th season, "Fan the Fire" is a day of inspiration, fun, service and faith for teens.

Each year hundreds of young people throughout the diocese spend a day in prayer and adoration, listening to great speakers, receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation and participating in Mass celebrated by Bishop Caggiano.

The youth rally inspires and changes lives. Young people experience the company of others, while growing vibrantly in the faith.

Special thanks go to youth minister and host Rodd Blessey who created "Fan the Fire" and has been its guiding spirit, and to his team including youth group coordinator Jenna Donovan, and musicians Kevin Donovan and Katie Keogler.

"Empowering youth" was one of the main goals of Synod 2014. "The youth are not our future, they are our present," Bishop Caggiano has often said. Events such as "Fan the Fire" and many other retreats and formation activities—from Vacation Bible School to the "Summer Splash" for Young Adults—happening in the diocese this summer are re-engaging youth in the Church and creating hope.

Encuentro

This issue features a look at the findings of a self-study report occasioned by the Fifth Encuentro process for Spanish-speaking Catholics now underway in the diocese and across the nation. It paints a remarkable portrait of a growing, vibrant and faithful community with a deep spiritual witness.

The report, led by Fr. Gustavo Falla, Pastor of St. Mary and St. Benedict/Nuestra Señora de Montserrat parish in Stamford and Episcopal Vicar for Hispanics in the diocese, gathered demographic, social and religious statistics about Spanish-speaking Catholics in preparation for the National Encuentro set for September in Grapevine, Texas. Among its findings: about one in every five Catholics in the diocese is Spanish-speaking, and the overwhelming majority of residents were either born here or have become U.S. citizens. More than half are fluent in English.

While there is much good news, much more work needs to be done to respond to the needs of Spanish-speaking Catholics and to encourage lay leadership. At present, 18 parishes have organized Hispanic ministries led by 18 Spanish-speaking priests. However, there is only one priest for every 5000 Spanish-speaking Catholics in the diocese. While there are many affluent families, ten percent of the children of Hispanic families live below the poverty level. Some families have left the Church for other denominations.

"Spanish-speaking people bring so much to the expression of our faith," said Fr. Falla, "Building on this base of faith, we need people trained in youth ministry, in assistance to the elderly, and most of all in outreach to those Catholics on the periphery."

Rest & Prayer

A summer reflection by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano originally printed on Facebook
"The gift of rest is important to our life for at least two important reasons. First, sufficient, quality rest is essential to the proper stewardship of the gifts of our physical and mental health. Proper sleep, time for recreation and opportunities to "unwind" are essential to mitigate the effects of stress and fatigue. While we often forget that good health is one of the greatest gifts that God has given us, we can equally forget that it is our responsibility, to the best of our ability, to care for this great gift. Rest is essential in the stewardship of good health.

Periods of rest are also very important in the proper development of our spiritual lives. For example, when we pray, how often have we experienced distractions because our minds are running ahead of our ability to quiet them down? How many times have we fallen asleep while praying because we are physically tired? Have we ever become cross or angry with our family and friends, for no apparent reason except that we were "irritable" (often caused because we are tired or distracted)? A healthy prayer life demands that we take time to rest and rejuvenate ourselves so that we can spend quality time with the Lord in prayer and service of His people. Rest also allows us to take a step back from our ordinary life and see the world anew, with a fresh and rested set of eyes.

Summer is the time when we have the opportunity to take some time away and rest. Let us use this time well. Our spiritual, physical and mental health depend upon it."



DIOCESAN BLUE MASS

Commemorating the Seventeenth Anniversary of 9-11

September 9, 2018

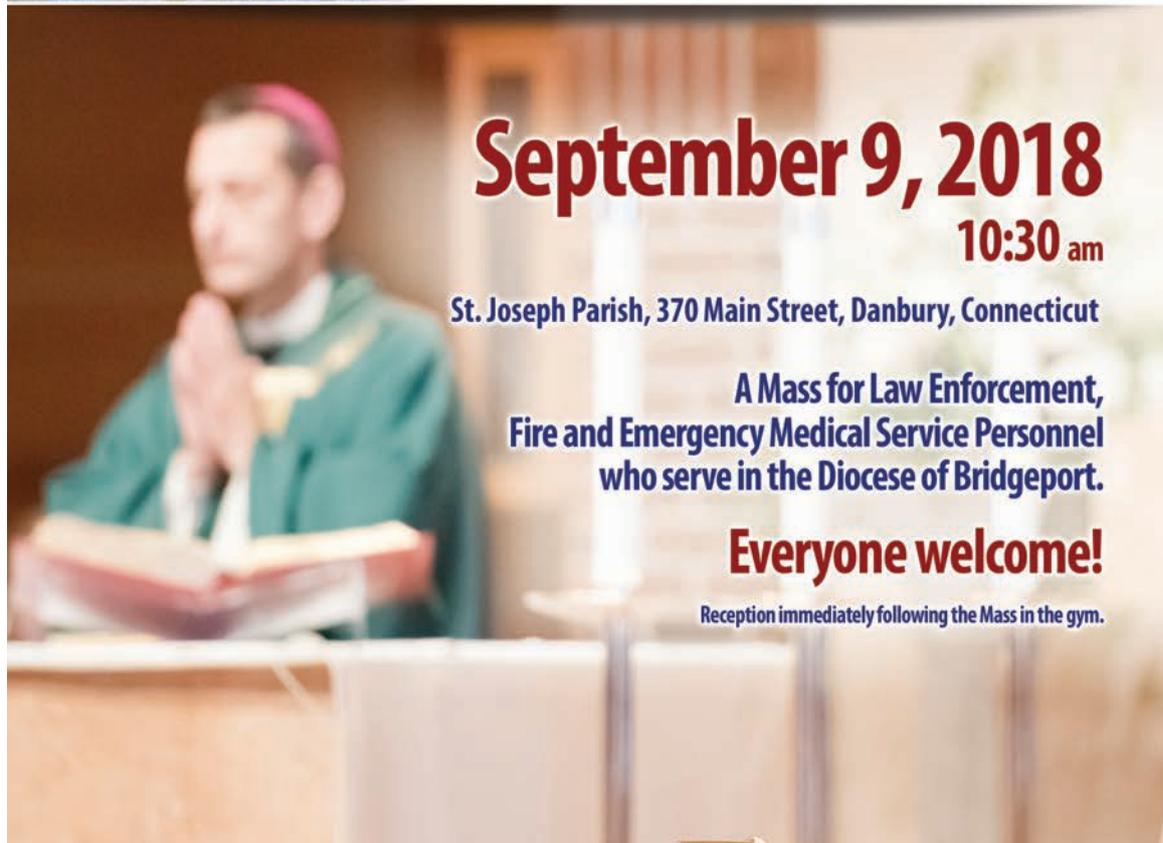
10:30 am

St. Joseph Parish, 370 Main Street, Danbury, Connecticut

A Mass for Law Enforcement,
Fire and Emergency Medical Service Personnel
who serve in the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Everyone welcome!

Reception immediately following the Mass in the gym.




CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

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

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF VOCATIONS
FATHER JOSÉ A. VÁSQUEZ,
to Assistant Director of Vocations.
Effective date is June 30. Father
Vásquez will remain Parochial

Vicar, Saint Mary Parish,
Stamford.

RETIREMENT

FATHER RICHARD G.
CIPOLLA, from Pastor, Saint

Mary Parish, Norwalk to retire-
ment. Effective date is June 30.

Father Joseph A. Marcello
Vicar for Clergy, July/August, 2018

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Diocese of Bridgeport

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Editorial



Graduation and the (first) Job Search

A WOMAN'S VOICE

BY DEBRA TOMASELLI

Debra Tomaselli writes from Altamonte Springs, Florida. She can be reached at dtomaselli@cfl.rr.com

“Get out of the car and don’t return until you’ve knocked on every door in this building,” my mother instructed me. She parked beside a three-story office complex.

“This is dumb,” I said, yanking the car door open. “They probably don’t need to hire anyone!”

My complaint landed on deaf ears.

“I’ll be waiting for you,” she said firmly. “Be sure to knock on

every single door.”

My recent graduation pushed me toward employment. Although I wanted office work, I dreaded the job search.

This was before Internet days. You found jobs through classifieds, knocking on doors, completing applications and face-to-face interviews.

I cringed at the thought, bolstered by endless excuses: There weren’t any good jobs in the classifieds. I didn’t own a car yet. I didn’t have work experi-

ence. I didn’t know if I’d like the co-workers....

Finally Mom, convinced I’d wrinkle and turn grey before finding employment, took charge. She made a plan: I’d dress for an interview and she’d take me on a job search. She claimed there were jobs available besides those in the classifieds. She knew where the nearby offices were. She would drive me there. When they saw my motivation, they’d waive the prior experience requirement. She knew they’d be reputable businesses and she knew the employees would be nice.

There was no escaping her plan. I entered the building, breathed deeply, and opened the first door.

“I’m here to apply for a job,” I said.

“We don’t have any openings,” the receptionist said.

After this happened several times, I relaxed. I was right after all.

Somewhat smug, I advanced to the second floor. The elevator opened to the lobby of a large office.

“I’d like to apply for a job,” I said.

The receptionist handed me an application, which I completed. She disappeared, returning with a question.

“Do you have time to take a test?”

“Sure,” I said.

I breezed through the quiz. Moments later she announced a manager would like to interview me. I agreed, making myself comfortable.

“By the way,” I said. “What kind of an office is this?”

“Insurance,” she replied.

Aetna Insurance offered me a job that day and a career that lasted a lifetime.

I bought my first car while working for Aetna, moved to Florida with Kemper Insurance, then joined an insur-

ance agency. When I married and had children, I left fulltime work to create an independent, flexible schedule. I used my insurance skills to train employees, create continuing education programs and alleviate work overflows.

Years later, when I returned to fulltime insurance, a wonderful opportunity arose. It’s close to home. It’s a caring firm. I like my coworkers.

A lifetime ago, as I stepped out of my mom’s car, who could have guessed this opportunity awaited me? Looking back, I realize that moment was graced with divine direction.

As strains of Pomp and Circumstance fade in the distance, I wish the same for today’s graduates. I pray they have eyes to view the opportunities from above, and the wisdom to see, as the years roll by, the Hand that is holding theirs. ■



It Bears All Things

A DAD'S VIEW

BY MATTHEW HENNESSEY

Matthew Hennessey and his family are parishioners of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Stamford.

We call our family members “loved ones,” but the truth is we aren’t always that loveable.

The daily grind of home and hearth are not without friction. When you’re in a bad place, the ones you love best usually get it the worst. Who wakes up and thinks, “I wonder how I can make this house happier today?”

My knee goes out periodically. It’s an old injury that flares up once in a while and cripples me. Probably it dates back 30 years to the time I whiffed on a soccer ball and tore something important.

The episodes don’t last long,

but while they’re ongoing I get ornery. Hobbling around like an invalid turns me into a mumbling crumbum. I get snippy with people who don’t deserve it—namely my beautiful wife and my innocent children.

“Who put these bowls on the bottom shelf?” I bark like a mad dog. “Don’t you pork chops know how to load a dishwasher? There’s a right way and a wrong way, you know.”

Pet peeves get pet peevier when you’re in pain. When the knee heals I’ll make sure to remind them all how grateful I am that they even try to load the dishwasher at all. Promise.

The high heat of summer has ill effects on everyone’s

manners. When the kids are tired and worn down they get grumpy, full of sass. They roll their eyes and exhale sharply and dramatically.

They say things to their mother and father, like, “How was I supposed to know metal can’t go in the microwave?” or “Can we do something, I’m bored.”

Grrrr. Love is patient. Love is kind. But it’s a nice day outside.

Love is not going to plan your summer for you.

Sometimes children throw fits, like our Billy, who seems to believe that two year-olds are entitled to unlimited applesauce and yogurt. This ain’t daycare, pal. The kitchen is closed until dinner.

Have you ever had the great experience of being defied in public by a child who has decided that you can get out of the pool if you prefer but she’ll be staying right where she is, thank you very

much? If the answer is “no,” you have something edifying to look forward to.

We are at our most unlovable when we dare our loved ones to embarrass themselves in public. Love does not seek its own interests. It is not quick-tempered.

Everyone commits quotidian crimes against their loved ones, but there are other occasions of unlovability that are not so everyday. The trial of illness has made many saints. I’m sure it’s made an equal number of unhappy homes.

We’ve all said silly things while in the grips of a high fever or under the influence of strong medicine. My grandmother once went into the hospital for a minor procedure requiring a general anesthesia. When she came out of it she groggily asked, “Boy or girl?”

Honest mistake. She was a mother of seven.

It’s not uncommon for suddenly uninhibited sick people to lash out at their caregivers. The mean, naked, shivering truth rears up in extremis. Absorbing a barb under such trying circumstances requires deep reserves of humility and compassion. Love endures all things.

Sticking around and taking the sickbed heat when it would be so much easier to up sticks and walk away must be among the heaviest crosses to bear. Love does not brood over injury.

A good friend is currently dealing with a bad situation. A child is suffering. Her parents and her doctors don’t know how to help her. It’s taking a toll on the family.

My friend is afraid that his frustration will tip over into despair. His wife feels it, too. They both feel they are failing as parents. They fear the constant stress will permanently scar their other children.

Please pray for that family, and for all who find it within themselves to love the seemingly unlovable. May their holiness rub off on the rest of us. Love never fails. ■

“We call our family members “loved ones,” but the truth is we aren’t always that loveable.”

Stamford News

Talking about Mother Teresa at Stamford High

By FRANK DEROSA

About five years ago, Randy Stone, a Stamford High School teacher, sat spellbound in his car as the radio broadcast the gripping story of a young Manhattan doctor suddenly summoned to Calcutta in 1989 to save the life of the revered Mother Teresa.

Unable to break the persistent and possible viral hemorrhagic fever of the saintly missionary to the poor, her Indian doctors observed her getting weaker, her condition seriously deteriorating. With justification, they feared they would lose her.

Meanwhile, back in New York, Dr. George V. Lombardi was sought out by a woman with close ties to Mother Teresa who believed that the physician, an infectious disease specialist, whom she had never met, could help.

Stunned by an unexpected

invitation to employ his medical skills on such an esteemed person, the next day the 32-year-old doctor found himself propelled by a series of dazzling events, orchestrated by the woman, Jan Petrie, onto the Concorde on the first leg of a mission to India.

Events can unfold at breakneck speed when a future saint is the subject. Dr. Lombardi hadn't even possessed a valid passport. It had expired. But as if by magic, that was expeditiously resolved.

Stone, a veteran and respected English and speech teacher, listened intently to the radio program he had stumbled upon, as Dr. Lombardi revealed his tale.

"I was blown away by the story," said Stone, recalling his reaction the day he heard the broadcast. "It was incredible."

When Dr. Lombardi arrived in Calcutta, he became aware of the tension and worry among



REMEMBERING MOTHER TERESA—Stamford High School students were treated to an extraordinary moment before the end of the school year when noted New York physician Dr. George V. Lombardi, an infectious disease specialist, spoke to them about treating Mother Teresa when she was very ill. He was invited to speak by Stamford High English teacher Randy Stone.

the people as the beloved nun appeared to be inching closer to death. There were candlelight prayer vigils. He said the drum-

beat of a death watch had begun.

He also carried with him the somber words the Indian Consul General in New York had spoken to him before he left, "The eyes of the world are upon you."

On arriving at the small hospital in Calcutta, he consulted with Mother Teresa's doctors. Courtly and elegant, they had a deep and abiding concern for their patient, he said.

Dr. Lombardi began his examination, collecting blood cultures, smears and stains and eagerly sending them to the lab for analysis. Like a student looking anxiously for the posting of grades that guarantee graduation, he awaited the results that would explain the cause for the infection and send him back home to his family.

For five days he waited. Then, a report: septic shock with a bacterial origin. His conclusion: a dormant pacemaker needed to be removed; a catheter attached to it the likely reason for the infection.

But an eminent doctor from Rome, also called in to consult, dismissed Dr. Lombardi's assessment and insisted strongly that Mother Teresa had malaria. Confronted with dissenting opinions, her Indian doctors had to choose whose findings to accept.

Carefully and patiently, they deliberated over what action to take. They took their time. Finally, they reached a decision. They would follow Dr. Lombardi's advice.

There was an immediate complication. The young doctor

had never removed a pacemaker in his brief medical career. But it had to be done. Anxiously, he prepared to do so.

Despite his inexperience in performing the delicate procedure, he managed to release the pacemaker. But the drama didn't end. The wire attached to the pacemaker was lodged in her right ventricle. Handled improperly, the wire could insert a hole that would lead to a quick death from bleeding.

Dr. Lombardi made a decision: "I prayed to Mother Teresa for Mother Teresa." Gently, nervously and prayerfully manipulating the wire, he saw it come loose. The fever broke. The 79-year-old future saint went on to minister to the poor for another eight years.

"I just loved the story," said Stone, a former actor and TV reporter. As a teacher, he wanted his Stamford High students to hear the unusual tale and to observe Dr. Lombardi's interesting and creative way of telling it.

So Stone began to incorporate into his speech and honors English courses the YouTube video of the doctor's talk, "The Moth: Mission to India." To date, some 500 students have watched and studied it. (The Moth is a group dedicated to the art and craft of storytelling.)

A chance first-time meeting at a literary event gave Stone the opportunity to invite Dr. Lombardi to speak to students in two of his classes. He accepted, and in early May, he drove up from Manhattan to visit the school.

"He's modest, humble, a regular guy," Stone said. "His humanity comes through."

The students had a glimpse of it when Dr. Lombardi recalled meeting Mother Teresa for the first time when he stood at her bedside on arriving at the Calcutta hospital.

Lying on what could have been her deathbed, she implicitly declared her affection for her adopted country and its people, when, not knowing what the future held, she said to him, "I will never leave India. Do not disagree with my Indian doctors."

"It was a touching, emotional moment for me," Dr. Lombardi said. "She was incredibly courageous."

Catholic radio is coming...

At the dawn of the new millennium, St. John Paul II called the Church to "take up her evangelizing mission with fresh enthusiasm" and to "open wide the doors for Christ!"

Veritas Catholic Network is the newest EWTN Radio affiliate answering the Holy Father's call for a New Evangelization, bringing the joy of the Gospel and the authentic teachings of the Catholic Church to listeners over the radio.

In 1996, Mother Angelica offered to provide Catholic programming for any Catholic who owned or operated a radio station. EWTN Radio affiliates quickly began popping up around the country; Michigan, Nevada, and Florida were among the first areas to broadcast 24 hours a day of faithful Catholic programming.

Today, there are almost 400 affiliate stations in the US run by 90 entities. They are broadcasting faithful, entertaining radio programming 24 hours a day.

Catholic radio has had remarkable effects in society and particularly in Catholic communities—conversions to the Church, deeper understanding



VERITAS RADIO—(l-r) Steve Lee, President & CEO of Veritas Catholic Network; Bishop Frank Caggiano, board member; John Mitchell, chairman; and Christopher Check, president of Catholic Answers, attend presentation about bringing the EWTN affiliate to the Diocese of Bridgeport.

of Catholic teaching among the faithful, strengthening Catholic families, support for Catholic schools and parishes as well as for Catholic business owners who provide underwriting to these stations.

A survey of 1100 listeners conducted a few years ago by

an EWTN Radio network asked "How has Catholic radio impacted your life?" A strong 56 percent said Catholic radio helped them teach their children, 58 percent increased giving their time and talent, and 51 percent increased their

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

McGivney Center

A legacy of community service

By **JOE PISANI**

Twenty years ago, Julio Martinez and his four siblings lived on the East Side of Bridgeport in a neighborhood where drug dealers, prostitutes and gangs prowled the streets. Julio never knew his father, and his mother struggled to raise her children ... and protect them.

"My mom wouldn't let us roam the streets," he recalled. "She made sure we stayed within two blocks."

Across from their apartment was the McGivney Community Center on the campus of St. Charles Borromeo Church.

"We would always see kids coming in and out of the center, and then me and my brothers started to sneak in," he said. When the parish learned about the boys, it enrolled them in the program and provided help for their mother, who had become seriously ill.

When she died two years later, her children were separated, and Julio, then nine years old, went to live with a parish family before being placed in foster care.

Despite the challenges life presented Julio, he found hope at the McGivney Center, where he eventually worked as a counselor and basketball coach. He

always tried to be a role model for young boys because he knew what it was like growing up in a single-parent family.

He was accepted at Villanova, Fairfield University and University of Connecticut, and with help from people at McGivney, he received full financial aid to Fairfield U.

"I was the first person in my family to graduate high school and the first in my family to graduate college, but I could never have done it without Stacy Ray, the executive director, and Cynthia White, the president of the board, at the time," he said.

Today Julio is vice president of the McGivney board and has a successful career in finance. He and his wife Brandy are the parents of a young daughter.

After two decades of involvement with the McGivney Center, Julio says, "I just wish I could

pull people to the center to see the kids during the summer program, and they'd understand the impact we're making every day. I have seen the success stories. I have seen some kids who had it ten times worse than me. And I have seen the changes McGivney has made."

His is one success story among many the center has had since it was founded 26 years ago. Its mission is the same now as then: "To provide stimulating and enriching programs that foster academic success and self-esteem for our youth."

Program Director Joe DeSabella said what began as a summer camp program in 1992 for 50 kids now serves more than 400 youth annually; 100 are enrolled in the after-school program, which draws students from 20 elementary schools and offers homework assistance, enrichment



JULIO MARTINEZ

and recreation.

The summer program serves 90 students, from K-to-8, providing athletic, academic and enrichment activities to stem the "summer learning loss" so that students can return to school well-prepared in September.

"When I first came to this area, there were gangs, drugs and prostitution," Joe said. "I've seen it improve in the last 10 years. Kids need this kind of environment, where they're supported and their academic

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

McGivney brothers

While it is often assumed the McGivney Center at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bridgeport was named after Father Michael McGivney, whose cause for sainthood is being considered by the Vatican, it is actually named after his two brothers, Patrick and John, who played a decisive role in the history of St. Charles Parish.

The new church was formed from the northern section of St. Mary Parish on the East Side of Bridgeport in 1902 to serve



MCGIVNEY FAMILY GRAVE—Msgrs. Patrick and John McGivney, pastors of St. Charles Church, are buried at St. Joseph Cemetery in Waterbury. Venerable Michael McGivney's remains were moved to St. Mary Church in New Haven on the 100th anniversary of the Knights of Columbus, which he founded.

Irish immigrants. Father William Lynch, who was the first pastor, laid the cornerstone for a school in 1903 and began construction on the lower church in 1907.

In 1913, he was succeeded by Msgr. Patrick McGivney, who was responsible for construction of the convent in 1921, and the upper church, which was completed in 1925 at a cost of \$400,000. The impressive Tudor Gothic structure seated 1,400 and had stained glass windows from Bavaria, statues carved from Italian marble, main and side altars, and reproductions of paintings in St. Peter's Basilica.

For 25 years, Msgr. Patrick McGivney also served as chaplain of the Knights of Columbus, and during World War I, he visited the battlefields and hospitals in France.

When he died in 1928, his younger brother John succeeded him as pastor and supreme chaplain. Msgr. John McGivney, who served until 1939, was responsible for building the rectory and parish hall, which would eventually become the McGivney Center.

The McGivney brothers were credited with making St. Charles one of the

finest parishes in New England, with five buildings occupying an entire city block. Today the parish, led by Father Frank Gomez, is one of the most vibrant in the diocese and serves immigrants from various ethnic communities, including Latinos from Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, Haitians, Brazilians, Laotians and Vietnamese.

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Young Adults

Calling All Catholic Young Adults (CYAs)!

Join us for the 3rd Annual "Summer Splash" on Sunday, August 5, 2-5 pm.

Hosted by the Catholic Young Adults of Greater Danbury (CYAGB), we'll gather at St. Francis of Assisi parish in Weston, CT, for Mass celebrated by Fr. John Connaughton of St. Thomas More parish, Darien, followed by a party with music, games and fun food. A suggested \$10 donation per person helps bring Catholic young adults together for fellowship and laughs.

In the past, "Summer Splash" has been held at Our Lady Star of the Sea parish in Stamford with Bishop Frank J. Caggiano celebrating Mass, followed by a party on the beach. This year, CYAGB organizers have offered to host



this unique summertime event featuring fun and meaningful activities at this year's "Summer Splash" on August 5 in Weston. Sign-up/RSVP at sign-up-genius.com/go/60b044caba-2faaf85-summer today! Bring your friends and enjoy this year's "Summer Splash" planned just for you.

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CATHOLIC RADIO FROM PAGE 14

involvement in parishes. Seventy-eight people reported Catholic radio had an impact in their conversion to the Catholic faith, 127 reported Catholic radio had an impact on saving their marriages, 129 young people said they had considered a vocation to the priesthood or religious life thanks to Catholic radio.

The impact of radio: Pew Research shows 93 percent of all Americans (ages 12+) listen to terrestrial radio every week. When given a range of choices, 82 percent of Americans (18+) say they prefer AM/FM radio over other options like Sirius, Spotify, Pandora and podcasts. Radio continues to succeed because it is local and there's a personal connection with the community. Pope John Paul II used to speak of "the intimacy of radio;" satellite radio and playlists can't replicate the relationship listeners have with local on-air personalities.

Veritas Catholic Network will broadcast locally 24 hours a day, as well as have a presence on mobile devices and social networking. They plan to be completely enmeshed in the Catholic and secular community and will have a presence all over the diocese—from parish fairs and Catholic school plays, to the Norwalk Oyster Festival and Ridgefield's Gone Country. They are excited about plans to involve the young people of the diocese in their work—by conducting and broadcasting from Catholic school events and contests, by hosting FOCUS missionaries, and by highlighting local students on the air and on their website.

As part of their service to the diocese and the community, they will offer a broadcast voice for a community calendar, supportive businesses, local announcements and priests' birthdays. In their plans, they will eventually offer time for the bishop and local priests to be on the air, produce and broadcast a local morning drive-time show, and have a student-run program with youth on the air, doing production and marketing the show.

(To contact Veritas Catholic Network, email info@veritascatholic.com. For updates, go to www.veritascatholic.com.)

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For information please call 203.322.5886.



Foundations in Education

Ryan joins Foundations staff

BRIDGEPORT—Foundations in Education is pleased to announce the appointment of Austin Ryan as assistant director of development.

“We are delighted to welcome Austin, who complements the great work being done by Foundations in Education in support of our schools,” said Executive Director Holly Doherty-Lemoine. “Austin brings his unique talents to our effort with promises to help Foundations advance in our mission in support of students, faculty and of course the Diocese of Bridgeport School Superintendent, Dr. Steven Cheeseman’s vision to create best-in-class schools for all

our children.”

As assistant director of development for Foundations in Education, Ryan is tasked with managing a comprehensive development program including annual giving, major gifts, grants, events, donor cultivation and stewardship.

He pursued his Catholic education at Fairfield Prep and Marquette University and began his professional career in 2010 at Jesuit College Preparatory School in Dallas, TX. Ryan returned to his alma mater, Fairfield Prep in the summer of 2014 as director of alumni relations and was promoted to gifts

officer in the winter of 2016.

Ryan and his fiancée Melissa will celebrate their wedding this August.

The mission of Foundations in Education is to strengthen and transform Catholic education in the Diocese of Bridgeport by supporting innovation in academic

and extra-curricular programs, fostering opportunities for the professional development of school leaders in innovation and leadership and providing scholarship assistance to families in need.

(For more information about Foundations in Education, visit www.foundationsineducation.org.) ■



AUSTIN RYAN

Lopez named to Board of Trustees

Foundations in Education is pleased to announce the appointment of a new member to its Board of Trustees. Joining the board, effective July 1, 2018, is Leslie Lopez, JD CFRE.

Leslie Lopez currently serves as Director of Development for the School Sisters of Notre Dame Atlantic-Midwest Province in Wilton, CT. Leslie is a lawyer (JD) and a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE), earning her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Connecticut School of Law and Bachelor of Science from the College of New Rochelle. Leslie currently resides in Greenwich, CT.



Over the past 20 years, as a nonprofit executive, Leslie advised a wide range of organizations—religious, educational,

healthcare, international, the arts and community organizations—where she enhanced the culture of engagement in order to grow support and meaningful relationships.

Prior to nonprofit management, Leslie provided legal consultation in the areas of international business, contracts, real estate and business development.

Foundations in Education Executive Director Holly Doherty-Lemoine commented, “I have had the very good fortune to know Leslie professionally for many years and am delighted she has elected to share her time, talent and wisdom with us. Her commitment to Catholic education is without limit and her knowledge of our mission extensive, making her an amazing ambassador for Foundations in Education.”

“During my formative years, I had 12 years of quality Catholic education,” remarked Leslie. “In turn, transforming lives through the same educational system is very dear to me. Joining the FIE Board of Trustees is a grand way for me to share my experience

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



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- **Lecture and Prayer Experiences**
Four Saturdays from 10 to 11:30 a.m.: October 6 & 20, and November 3 & 17, 2018.
- **Faith Sharing Groups**
Six Sessions in January and February 2019: Dates and times to be determined.
- **Week of Directed Prayer**
March 16 to 23, 2019: Group prayer on Saturday mornings, and daily one-on-one weekday meetings with an experienced spiritual director. Flexibility allows retreatants to schedule around work and family obligations.

Fairfield University

For more information or to register, contact Colleen Gilbertson at 203-254-4000, ext 3468. A donation of \$150 for the entire program is requested. Space is limited to 24 participants.

Feeding the Hungry

Serving at the Master's Table

By JOE PISANI

When Jim Fedak Jr. was 9 years old, he knew what he wanted to be.

Most boys imagine themselves as firemen, rock stars and professional athletes. Jim, however, wanted to feed the hungry, his mother Marie says. And today he does.

It was an ambition that inspired him from an early age and continued through his teen years, when he volunteered at soup kitchens and food pantries in Florida until eventually, his dream became a reality.

With a lot of work and the dedicated assistance of his wife Janette, his family and friends, Jim developed the Master's Table Community Meals, a volunteer organization that offers food, hope and assistance to the less fortunate.

He says Master's Table, which was established as a 501c3 non-

profit in 2011, relies mostly on private donations to serve free meals to the homeless, the unemployed, seniors, veterans and low-to-moderate-income families, providing food and fellowship twice a month in a communal setting.

"Since I was very young, I've always enjoyed helping people," Jim says. "I worked in human services for 15 years and volunteered in soup kitchens when I lived in Florida for 11 years. When I came to Connecticut, I realized we could do something here. You could call it a God moment."

The idea had been in his mind for years, and he believes God put it in his heart. He discussed it with Janette and later with Mark Riccio of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull, whom he met at a Bluefish baseball game in Bridgeport. They held an organizational meeting with several

others, including parishioners from St. Joseph and St. Lawrence parishes in Shelton ... and then put their ideas into action.

Mark, who is a senior accountant at Bigelow Tea, quotes St. Vincent de Paul: "Those who help the poor will have sunshine in their life and never have to worry on their judgment day."

"It is very easy to get wrapped up in your own life," he says. "The volunteers at Master's Table could be doing a million other things and choose to give up their Sundays to help put on this meal. It's one thing to go to church 55 minutes on Sunday, and it's another thing to live it."

Mark works in the kitchen at the community meals, which are held the second and fourth Sunday of the month at the Church of the Assumption in Ansonia. He assists professional chef Vinny LaRocca



JAMES FEDAK JR. AND HIS WIFE JANETTE began the Master's Table Community Meals in 2011. Many other people have come forward to join them in their ministry since that time.

of St. Lawrence in preparing up to 150 meals for the guests at the community gathering, in addition to the homebound and a women's shelter.

When the group started, they approached several parishes about Master's Table. Jim says their first meal attracted only 23 guests, which grew to 28 and eventually 100 or more, depending upon the time of year.

"Master's Table" refers to the Last Supper," he says. "Christ welcomed anybody at his table—saints, sinners, prostitutes, the poor—and we follow the same philosophy."

"We work really hard to give our guests a good experience," Jim says. "It's not only the food but also the socialization. For

some people, this is the only interaction they have. People make friends and start talking. The social component is very important. We provide a good home-cooked meal and get raves from our guests."

Jim says that attitude is fundamental to the mission of Master's Table: "To feed all who are hungry and do so willingly and with compassion and understanding."

He believes God led him to the fulfillment of his childhood dream. "It is something how God works," he says. "He puts the idea in your mind and your heart ... and all you have to do is act on it."

(For more information, visit www.masterstablemeals.org or call 203.732.7792.)

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St. Vincent's College joins SHU

FAIRFIELD—Sacred Heart University has assumed operations of St. Vincent's College in Bridgeport, effective July 2, merging the valuable resources of two of the region's longstanding, venerable learning institutions.

"Sacred Heart University and St. Vincent's College are two institutions with a strong Catholic identity and similar missions and core values, and we are confident that joining together will benefit the students in both programs," said SHU President John J. Petillo.

In the coming year, offerings at the new entity—St. Vincent's College at Sacred Heart University—will include an associate's of science degree (A.S.) in nursing, an A.S. in radiography and a variety of certificate programs. Going forward, program offerings will expand to include other areas of strong employability. This includes expanding on St. Vincent's distance education programs and continuing and professional education, which strengthens the academic options for students in both programs and allows both programs to prosper.

In addition, the venture will expand the opportunity for SHU and SVC students and faculty to develop and participate in interdisciplinary education that connects team-based education, self-directed learning and face-to-face instruction. It will provide a pathway for St. Vincent's students to pursue a baccalaureate or master's degree at Sacred Heart University in a seamless transition, while providing Sacred Heart students expanded access to inpatient clinical sites that are essential to the success of their program.

"SVC at SHU will maintain a strong relationship with St. Vincent's Medical Center," President Petillo noted.

Trinity Catholic High School

Classical program set for Cardinal Kung Academy

STAMFORD—Beginning in September, students at Cardinal Kung Academy in Stamford will be reading Aquinas and Augustine and studying Latin, logic and rhetoric, along with tra-



IGNATIUS CARDINAL KUNG

ditional subjects such as science and mathematics, as part of a curriculum commonly referred to as a “classical education.”

Dr. Steven Cheeseman, superintendent of schools for the Bridgeport Diocese, announced the formation of Cardinal Kung Academy as a division of Trinity Catholic High School this past April. “This new program will open up Catholic education to families who have not traditionally chosen to attend our schools,” Dr. Cheeseman said. “Our goal is to make Catholic education as accessible to as many people as possible, and I think this is another step in that direction.”

Classical education has a long tradition and has been enjoying a recent nationwide resurgence in popularity. A classical curric-

ulum is integrated: each subject is taught in relation to the others and not as an isolated area of information. Students and teachers read original texts and discuss them in seminar-style classes which demand intense student participation. History is studied chronologically. Students are required to develop critical thinking, rigorous writing and persuasive speaking skills.

The academy will meet in the St. Bridget of Ireland Parish school building and will be the only Catholic classical high school in Fairfield County. The doors will open to ninth and tenth graders this year, adding the eleventh and twelfth grades successively over the next two years.

Ignatius Cardinal Kung Pin-Mei, the school’s namesake, was a Chinese bishop who spent 30 years in a Communist prison, mostly in solitary confinement, for refusing to renounce his allegiance to the Roman Catholic Church. After being released, Cardinal Kung spent the last years of his life in Stamford, living and working with the retired priests of this diocese.

Cardinal Kung Academy will not permit technology (no laptops, tablets or smart phones) in the classroom or while on campus, enabling the students to more deeply engage with their studies. The prudent use of technology will be encouraged for presentations, research and typing of papers.

Consistent with the diocesan philosophy of making Catholic education available to any child



CARDINAL KUNG ACADEMY—Beginning in September, students interested in Classical education will attend the new Cardinal Kung Academy, a division of Trinity Catholic High School. The students will meet in the St. Bridget of Ireland Parish school building. It will be the only Catholic classical high school in Fairfield County.

who desires it, the academy will also offer a part-time option and allow students to take classes à la carte. This will serve those families who choose to home-

school their children through high school.

Cardinal Kung Academy will be able to charge a lower tuition by offering only one academic

track, primarily honors level classes, and by limiting services to just the essentials. Students will be able to join sports teams or extracurricular activities at Trinity Catholic High School for additional fees.

“It is my hope that Cardinal Kung Academy will be a place where the fullness of our Catholic faith will be taught and lived with courage and conviction... offering students the unparalleled excellence of a classical education that will prepare them to think critically, to express themselves eloquently, and to bring Truth, Goodness and Beauty to a world desperately in need of it,” concluded Jennifer Docherty, a literature teacher at Cardinal Kung Academy.

(For more information, contact Cardinal Kung Academy at cardinalkungacademy@gmail.com, or 203.918.0992.

LOPEZ FROM PAGE 17

and knowledge to advance the mission of Catholic education in the Diocese of Bridgeport.”

Leslie Lopez joins the existing Foundations in Education Board of Trustees: Most Reverend Frank Caggiano, David Cappiello, George Coleman, R. Bradford Evans, Michael Hanlon, Lawrence Kudlow, Andrea Maldon, Daniel McCarthy, Anne McCrory, Tom McInerney, Julia McNamara, Joseph Purcell, Bernard Reidy, Gerard Robilotti, Robert Scinto, Michael Shea, Sister Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ and Holly Doherty-Lemoine, CFRE.

Foundations in Education

started as Bishop Frank J. Caggiano’s vision to promote the Diocese of Bridgeport’s ongoing mission to advance Catholic education in Fairfield County. The primary purpose of this non-profit initiative is to support Catholic education by providing tuition assistance to students and grants for faculty and administrators that promote classroom innovation and professional leadership development and other education-based programs.

(For more information about Foundations in Education, please visit www.foundationineducation.org)



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Catholic Charities

First Annual Charities Cup a huge success

By ELLEN MCGINNESS

In describing the international sport of rugby, Pope Francis has said, "It makes us think of life, because our whole life we are heading for a goal. We need to run together, pass the ball from hand to hand, until we get to it. Playing rugby is hard; it is no walk in the park. I think that makes it useful to toughen the spirit, the will."

Taking inspiration from the Holy Father's words, rugby teams from around Fairfield County came together on June 23 at Fairfield University's Rafferty Stadium for the first annual "Charity Cup," a fundraiser in support of Catholic Charities of Fairfield County (CCFC).

Organized by Fairfield Yankee rugby player and St. Joseph High School theology teacher Michael Pappa, in tandem with CCFC board member Pete Maloney, the day brought in over \$3,500 for the agency.

"The first ever Charity Cup was a win all around. Local players volunteered their time playing in a healthy competition to support a great cause," Pappa summarized.

Over one hundred rugby players, from middle schoolers to seasoned veterans, competed in multiple matches throughout the day. For the youth teams, Fairfield Rugby Club defeated Aspetuck Rugby in three consecutive matches. On the adult side, the Fairfield Yankees, Danbury Madhatters, Greenwich Rugby, Fairfield Lady Yankees, and Danbury Women's Rugby battled it out in a round-robin format.

With support from agile college players and hometown-hero-turned-professional player Myles McQuone, the Fairfield Yankees men's team overwhelmed their competition with relentless fast-paced play. In the women's division, the experience, skill and depth of the Danbury Women's Rugby team led them to victory, despite a valiant effort by their opponents, the Lady Yankees.

Dr. Mark Nemeč, president of Fairfield University and a hard-nosed rugby player, participated in the touch rugby matches and presented trophies to the winning teams. Rugby United New York, the metropolitan area's



RUGBY FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES—Rugby players throughout Fairfield County gathered at Fairfield University's Rafferty Stadium for the First Annual Charity Cup to support Catholic Charities of Fairfield County. More than 100 players from middle schoolers to seasoned veterans completed in multiple matches.

first professional rugby team, was a sponsor of the event and had representatives on site in support of the day. Additional sponsors and supporters included Grace O'Malley's, Yankee Social, Jr's

Deli and Grille and American Medical Response.

The Fairfield Yankees team donated their tournament winnings to CCFC's Thomas Merton Center, while Danbury Women's

Rugby donated their purse to CCFC's Morning Glory Breakfast Program.

(To support Catholic Charities, contact Bob Donahue at 203.416.1313 or rdonahue@ccfc-ct.org.)

HEAR THE CALL FROM PAGE 11

Before pursuing his master's, he took a year off and taught music and band at St. Augustine's School in Hartford and continued to be involved in campus ministry.

"Once I was asked point blank by a student if I had ever considered entering the priesthood, and I said, 'Sure, many times,'" he said. "When things were going badly or I had family issues or dark times, I would tell God, 'If you can get me and my family or friend through this, I'll do whatever you want. I was thinking I would give the priesthood a sincere shot, but I always pulled back my offer and thought, 'Next time, God, next time.'"

In 2016, he began teaching at St. Joseph High School in Trumbull and although things were going well, the question of whether he should enter the priesthood persisted.

He reached out to several priests he knew, including Father Jeffrey Gubbiotti, who was pastor at Assumption.

"One of the priests told me I had over-romanticized the priesthood and that every one of the priests I knew was still an imperfect person, a sinner, and there was no version of me that was

ever going to be good enough on my own accord," Trevor recalled. "Jesus would work with me if I opened myself up to him, and He would more than make up for my many flaws."

Trevor visited St. John Seminary in Boston to get a taste of the religious life and had a good experience but didn't think parish life was for him. After discussing the possibility of joining a religious community, the Jesuits became a strong possibility. Their spirituality was similar to the Xaverian Brothers at his high school.

Trevor began doing things in his daily life that Jesuits have been doing for 500 years — praying the Divine Office with his students at St. Joseph's, meditating on Scripture, conducting a daily examination of conscience and delving into Ignatian spirituality.

His interest in the Society of Jesus increased, and he had meetings with the Rev. Bret Stockdale, S.J., chaplain at Fairfield Prep, and the Rev. Mark Scalse, S.J., director of campus ministry at Fairfield University.

"I felt instantly at home with them," Trevor said. "I felt a bond and kinship there. I left feeling

completely and totally empowered, and I reached out to the vocation director at the Provincial Office in Maryland and had a two-hour interview over the phone."

All the pieces seemed to fall into place, he said. He began spiritual direction at the Ignatian Spirituality Center at Fairfield University and reading about the Jesuit tradition. Last September, he sent the vocation director a letter and said he wanted to apply to the order.

The director called back and Trevor started to learn about the ways he could serve God in the Society of Jesus, including prison ministry, teaching, mission work and hospital ministry.

In August, he will enter the Jesuit Novitiate of St. Andrew Hall in Syracuse. After 20 years, Trevor believes he is finally where he was meant to be ... and that Jesus was patient with him as He led him along.

His former bandmate, Bill Haug said, "I couldn't be happier for him. Trevor has always been on a journey of growth, a search to become the best version of himself. We can all use someone like Trevor to inspire us and share his faith with us."

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Sports: Fairfield U Legend

George Bisacca: On- and off-the-court success

By **DON HARRISON**

“Compartmentalize” was the word George Bisacca employed most often when explaining how he was able to balance a dual career as an attorney and a college basketball coach with family life.

The principal celebrant at his May 21st memorial service, the Father Charles Allen, SJ, spoke of Bisacca’s ability to “multi-task,” a term not yet in vogue during the 10-year period (1958-68) in which he successfully maintained a law practice and coached at Fairfield University.

George R. Bisacca, affectionately known as the “Father of Fairfield Basketball” and for whom the court in Alumni Hall was dedicated in 2015, died just one month shy of his 90th birthday on May 8, following a brief illness. His beloved wife of more than 67 years, Mildred, passed away on December 14, 2016.

The mourners at his memorial service, conducted in the Egan Chapel on the Fairfield campus, ranged from the six Bisacca children and their spouses, 12 grandchildren and their significant others, and 10 great-grandchildren, to 11 of his former players.

Long-time Fairfield basketball aficionados will recognize many of the names who were there to pay their respects: Charlie Phillips and Bill Pritz, co-captains of his 1966-67 squad; Art Kenney, Frank Magaletta, Bill Boyd, Jim Hessel, Joe D’Agostin, Pete Gillen, Bill Hegarty, Tom Crowley and Pete Odum.

Pritz, a sparkplug guard who was an important contributor to the Stags’ 1965-66 team—which won 19 of 24 games, but, because of political reasons, was denied a bid to the then-prestigious National Invitation Tournament (NIT)—made the trek from Chicago to honor his coach’s memory.

“Coach Bisacca was a devoted coach despite his full-time law



THE FATHER OF FAIRFIELD BASKETBALL—The late George Bisacca of Fairfield is affectionately remembered as the “the father of Fairfield University basketball.” Many Stag fans remember his great 1965-66 team, which won 19 of 24 games but was denied a bid to the prestigious National Invitation Tournament (NIT).

practice and a young family at home,” Pritz said. “Most of us kept in touch with him. I moved out of the area initially to Boston and then to Chicago, but was drawn back periodically to attend a basketball event or to catch up with Coach B.”



GEORGE R. BISACCA

Bisacca’s links to basketball and the Jesuits began during his childhood. He played three years of varsity ball at Fairfield Prep and was a member of its first graduating class in 1946. Then he enrolled at Georgetown University, another Jesuit institution, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in three years.

There was a brief pause on his education track, for good reason: On July 9, 1949, George and Millie Bisacca exchanged wedding vows at St. Patrick’s Church in Bridgeport. Only then did he return to Georgetown to earn his law degree.

Bisacca had already established his law practice in Fairfield when Fairfield Prep beckoned: Would you return to coach your alma mater’s basketball team? He agreed—for a per-season stipend of \$500.

After six successful seasons (86-32) at Prep, highlighted by a semi-final loss to eventual state champion Weaver in the 1956 CIAC Class A Tournament, the head-coaching position opened

at Fairfield University. Calling it a “no-brainer,” he accepted the offer of \$1,750 per season.

He transformed the Stags into champions almost immediately, capturing three straight Tri-State League titles and, in 1961-62, earning the designation as the top College Division team in the East with a 20-5 record. Seeking a new challenge, now-Athletic Director Bisacca convinced the school administration to elevate the basketball program to NCAA Division I—despite a shoestring budget.

Few first-year D-I programs are capable of carving out a winning record, but Bisacca’s 1964-65 squad prevailed in 14 of 21 games, highlighted by road victories over Fordham and Canisius, as well as an 88-84 triumph over Georgetown in the small campus gym.

Year Two was bittersweet. The 1965-66 Stags set a school record with 13 consecutive victories en route to a 19-5 record, rather remarkable in itself. Virtually all of that team’s front-line personnel—co-captains Mike Branch and Pat Burke, Billy Jones, Jim Brown, Phillips and the 6-foot-8 Kenney—as well as its coach would be inducted into Fairfield University’s Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame.

But Burke’s death, in an off-campus accident in mid-February, and the NIT’s failure to select Fairfield to its 16-team field sullied an otherwise memorable winter.

After two more winning seasons at the game’s highest level (12-9 and 16-10), a weary Bisacca announced his retirement from coaching (151 wins, 87 losses, few regrets).

Later, though, he was able to satisfy his basketball passion by coaching two professional top-division teams in Italy.

In retirement, George Bisacca mentored and coached inner-city youngsters at Bridgeport’s Cardinal Shehan Center and took on pro-bono legal work. Starting at age 80, he led a group of “Concerned Citizens” in a five-year fight against the illegal

removal of the town of Fairfield’s conservation director from overseeing the construction of a third railroad station and mixed-use development in an environmentally sensitive area.

The case was finally settled in the Connecticut Supreme Court, which ruled the town’s actions “illegal, null and void.”

Call it another court victory for Coach B. ■

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Obituaries

John Glover, 64

KENT—Former *Fairfield County Catholic* photographer John Glover, 64, passed away suddenly of an apparent heart attack on Monday, July 9, in his home in Cornwall Bridge, CT.

Mr. Glover joined *Fairfield County Catholic* in 1998 as staff photographer at the invitation of Dr. Joseph McAleer, former executive editor and director of Communications for the diocese.

Born in Orange, N.J., on April 20, 1954, John R. Glover spent the early years of his life growing up in Weston, CT, where his late parents, John H. Glover III and Geraldine R. Glover had chosen to live and raise their family. He graduated from Weston High School in 1972, was an avid sailor and a collector of various works of art. He went to Union College, graduating with a degree in Economics and Physics in 1976.

After leaving *Fairfield County Catholic*, John travelled widely across the United States for French publisher Editions du Signe, photographing churches for commemorative diocesan publications, including a landmark book on St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.

Details for his service will be

announced at a later date.

Remembering John R. Glover (1954-2018)

By Dr. Joseph McAleer

He was larger than life—literally and figuratively.

John Glover was a gentle giant. He was built like a linebacker but had a sweet, sensitive nature. Gregarious to a fault, he would engage perfect strangers on a wide variety of topics. He was a man of broad knowledge and strong opinions, always insisting—stubbornly, maddeningly—that he was right.

Funny thing is, he usually was. John served as the official photographer of the Diocese of Bridgeport for 12 years. In that capacity, he visited every single parish, Catholic school, Catholic Charities location, and major event, often clad in his signature attire: white dress shirt, blue shorts, and brown moccasins (even in winter). Nuns in particular loved him.

John was not Catholic, but he was our Church's best ambassador. You could not meet a man more respectful of the Mass. Sensitive to his outsize presence, he took care to be discreet. He was unhappy when people were not paying attention or talking



during Mass. John would gently advise a priest to put on his jacket or straighten his collar so as to make the best impression.

A favorite of then-Bishop Egan, John followed him to New York and on to the Vatican when Cardinal Egan received his red hat. Those present in St. Peter's Square that bright February day will remember looking up at the top of the colonnade with pride and seeing John, in white t-shirt and shorts, pointing his lens at the crowd. He also represented the diocese on official press trips to Jordan and Israel.

John did not suffer fools gladly. Woe the person who was discourteous or overreaching. He would fearlessly argue with T.S.A. agents at the airport or demand an explanation why the I.R.S. was asking so many questions.

Well-intentioned but intense, John demanded a respect that most of us have given up expecting. He was unique, and how blessed we are for having basked in his very bright light. ■

Sister Joan Flynn

Sister Joan Flynn (Sister Gerard Marie) of the Sisters of Mercy died on May 28 at St. Mary Home in West Hartford. Joan was born in Bridgeport, the daughter of the late John and Irene Flynn.



She entered the Sisters of Mercy immediately after graduating from high school, professed religious vows in 1954, and embarked on a 16-year teaching career. Sister Joan then felt drawn to pastoral ministry and until her retirement in 2011 served first at St. Mary Parish in Derby and then at St. Theresa in Trumbull, where she was a strong voice in parish life from 1985-2011.

A social activist to the core, she created a "Confronting a Culture of Violence" committee in her parish long before the Sisters of Mercy chose non-violence as one of their critical concerns. She always appreciated the opportunity to engage with new people who soon became friends, reach out into the ecumenical community and minister to those in need, and was active in many community organizations, including Area Congregations Together, Operation Holiday, Interfaith Emergency Shelter and the Valley Foodbank. A compassionate, prayerful woman of deep faith, Joan was buoyed up in her final days by the chant, "New day, new hope, new joy" given her by a hospital worker.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in the chapel of St. Mary Home by her fourth grade student from St. Peter School, Danbury, Father Thomas Thorne, now pastor of Assumption Parish in Westport. Burial took place in St. Mary Cemetery, West Hartford. ■

DECEASED CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT JULY 29—SEPTEMBER 8

JULY	YEAR
29	Deacon Ian Black 2006
AUGUST	YEAR
1	Msgr. Daniel J. Foley 1999
	Msgr. John J. Toomey, P.A. 1992
2	Rev. Patrick V. Lavery 1976
	Msgr. James J. McLaughlin 1985
3	Rev. Francis E. Fenton 1995
4	Msgr. Michael J. Guerin 1981
	Msgr. James F. Leary 1994
5	Msgr. Joseph Kohut 2017
7	Rev. Thomas G. Keeney 1990
9	Msgr. John J. Kennedy, P.A. 1955
	Msgr. Frank C. Dellolio 1983
	Msgr. Richard T. Scully 1988
10	Deacon William Rowe 2013
14	Deacon Gerardo Ramos 2007
15	Msgr. Edward J. Duffy 1977
16	Rev. Victor E. Piaskowski 1961
18	Rev. Alexander Z. Seregely 1971
20	Rev. Louis Pintye, O.F.M. 2017
21	Rev. John J. Dillon 1959
	Msgr. Thomas P. Guinan 1998
22	Rev. Michael Fay 2009
23	Msgr. Emilio C. Iasiello, P.A. 1969
24	Rev. Nicholas Calabro 2015
25	Rev. Richard Futie 2013
26	Rev. Msgr. Edward Scull 2016
	Lawrence Cardinal Shehan 1984
28	Rev. Vincent E. Finn 1958
	Rev. Edmund C. O'Connell 1973
29	Deacon Ramon Isidro 2006
	Rev. Joseph Linck 2008
SEPTEMBER	YEAR
2	Rev. Msgr. Francis J. Prankus 2000
3	Rev. Msgr. John F. X. Walsh 1967
	Rev. Msgr. Thomas F. Henahan 1998
4	Deacon Matthew Skurat 2013
5	Rev. John E. Fay 1954
6	Rev. Laurence F. Flanagan 1985

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Nuestra Voz

Informe resalta la necesidad de líderes laicos

Por PAT HENNESSY

“El entrenamiento de líderes es clave”, dice el padre Gustavo Falla, vicario episcopal para hispanos. “Necesitamos líderes laicos entrenados que se hagan más dueños de su fe”.

El Padre Falla, párroco de las parroquias de Santa María y San Benito/Nuestra Señora de Montserrat en Stamford, encabeza el V Encuentro en esta diócesis. Este V Encuentro, desde su planificación y desarrollo preliminares, ha sido un proceso de cuatro años basado en la formación de equipos parroquiales y diocesanos. Con el aliento del Obispo Frank J. Caggiano, unos 75 delegados parroquiales se reunieron para un Encuentro Diocesano el pasado febrero en Sta. María en Stamford, y 50 delegados asistieron al Encuentro Regional en Hartford el 10 de marzo. Esta diócesis es parte de la Región I, que abarca la Nueva Inglaterra. A fines de septiembre, diez delegados asistirán a la conferencia Nacional del V Encuentro en Texas.

La palabra “Encuentro” se entiende como una oportunidad para que personas de todos los Estados Unidos exploren sus similitudes, diferencias y desafíos; el primer Encuentro Nacional se realizó en 1972. “Fue una oportunidad para que la comunidad de habla hispana se reuniera y compartiera sus experiencias en la Iglesia estadounidense”, explica el Padre Falla. “Después de intercambiar información, llegaron a la conclusión de que las cosas no estaban funcionando muy bien”.

Después de esa primera reunión nacional, y conscientes de que otros grupos minoritarios en la Iglesia expresaron una experiencia similar, la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos abrió la Oficina de Asuntos Multiculturales, con una división para el Ministerio Hispano. La reunión nacional más reciente, en 2006, se centró sobre el alcance pastoral a los jóvenes.

El objetivo principal del V Encuentro es descubrir cómo la Iglesia en los Estados Unidos puede responder mejor a la presencia hispana fortaleciendo las formas en que los católicos hispanohablantes responden al llamado a convertirse en discípulos misioneros que sirven a toda la Iglesia.

Para ayudar con los dos aspectos de este desafío, el Encuentro Regional de marzo reunió estadísticas demográficas, sociales y religiosas para cada diócesis participante. El Padre Falla ayudó con el informe para la Diócesis de Bridgeport, que mostró algunos resultados sorprendentes:

La abrumadora mayoría de los residentes de habla hispana en el Condado de Fairfield nacieron aquí o se convirtieron en ciudadanos de los EE. UU. Son, en general, familias de clase trabajadora con un ingreso estable. Más de la mitad habla inglés con fluidez, siendo las personas mayores quienes tienen un mayor problema con el idioma. Al igual que con cualquier otra población, los números incluyen tanto a familias adineradas como a aquellas que



SPANISH-SPEAKING CATHOLICS, who make up about 20 percent of the Church in Fairfield County, took an active part in the preparation for the Fourth Diocesan Synod. They will carry the results of diocesan and regional dialogue to the National V Encuentro meeting in Texas. (For this article in English, see page 7.)

están luchando; lamentablemente, el diez por ciento de los niños en familias hispanas viven por debajo del nivel de la pobreza.

El informe muestra un área de preocupación por la vida de fe en esta diócesis. Sólo el 47 por ciento de los hispanos en el Condado de Fairfield se consideran católicos. Esto sucede en un momento en que la población de habla hispana está experimentando un fuerte crecimiento, mientras que el número de familias de habla inglesa está disminuyendo. Aproximadamente uno de cada cinco católicos en la Diócesis de Bridgeport es hispano. Hay 18 parroquias con un ministerio hispano organizado, y 18 sacerdotes hispanohablantes están activos en la diócesis. Esto es, aproximadamente un sacerdote por cada 5.000 hispanos católicos. La frase “no vamos muy bien” es apropiada.

En este contexto, las palabras del Papa Francisco sobre el

Discipulado Misionero resuenan grandemente: “Todos los bautizados, cualquiera que sea su posición en la Iglesia o su nivel de instrucción en la fe, son agentes de evangelización, y sería insuficiente prever un plan de evangelización para ser llevado a cabo por profesionales mientras que el resto de los fieles simplemente son receptores pasivos. La nueva evangelización requiere la participación personal de cada uno de los bautizados”.

El V Encuentro está diseñado para lograr este objetivo. La reunión nacional sugerirá recomendaciones derivadas de los Encuentros parroquiales y diocesanos e incluirá herramientas para ayudar a los delegados a identificar las necesidades más importantes, y espera proporcionar recursos y apoyo en todos los niveles en la Iglesia.

“Esta es una oportunidad para ver qué está sucediendo

realmente con nuestra gente”, dice el Padre Falla. “Hasta ahora, nos dice que tenemos que formar laicos capacitados con sentido de liderazgo y servicio a la comunidad”.

Él señala que este objetivo coincide exactamente con los hallazgos del Cuarto Sínodo Diocesano, que también habló de la necesidad de líderes laicos informados. Uno de los frutos del sínodo ha sido el Instituto Diocesano de Liderazgo. En el futuro, el Padre Falla espera que algunos de los programas que el instituto está desarrollando estén disponibles en español. “Tenemos que trabajar el uno con el otro. Las personas de habla hispana aportan mucho, públicamente, a la expresión de nuestra fe: procesiones del Viernes Santo, una intensa experiencia pro-vida y fuertes valores familiares. Sobre la base de esta vida de fe, necesitamos personas capacitadas en el ministerio juvenil, en asistencia a los ancianos y, sobre todo, en la difusión del Evangelio a los Católicos de la periferia”.

Sin importar cuál sea el idioma ni los aportes o necesidades de un grupo eclesial determinado, el liderazgo laico es clave para el incremento y fortaleza de la fe en la Diócesis de Bridgeport y, de hecho, en todo el país. Las palabras del Papa Francisco resumen el propósito del V Encuentro y el Cuarto Sínodo Diocesano. “Cada cristiano tiene el desafío, aquí y ahora, de participar activamente en la evangelización... para salir y proclamar el amor salvífico de Dios”.

(For English, see page 7) ■

WORLD WAR I

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Column: Thomas Hicks



Longing to hold back the season

POTPOURRI

BY THOMAS H. HICKS

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

Yesterday it was a thousand small coins ringing in your pocket —your hand dipped in scooping three at a time, giving them away. Sometimes, you'd drop one in the lush grass, unaware it was lost. Today comes in a different disguise: ... you measure it carefully, like a woman preparing to sew.... return any small change; cherish every moment under the leaden sky.

(Cortney Davis, "Taking Care of Time")

I love the sounds of summer: the hum of a fan, the slam of a screen door, the creak of a porch

swing chair, the hiss of pop-tops being pulled, ice-tinkling in a tall glass, the lap of waves, gulls crying. The lawn mower seems the very voice of summer.

When I look back, so many of the good memories of my childhood are connected with summer which gave me sea and sand, ice cream trucks jingling through the neighborhood, backyard cookouts, picnics, remembered vacations. There were the times when nothing was more important than the choice of ice cream. I have a vivid memory of a time when I was eleven years old and it was a summer morning, and the day stretched ahead vast and shimmering, promising nothing but good.

There is summer's sweet

smelling rain, and the long, soft summer twilights. I am always moved by summer scenes in poems and novels and films.

But July for me is sweet and sad. One senses summer's diminishing. Sadly one notices the long June evenings drawing in; daylight shrinks. The flood of summer light ebbs. Days that once stretched to 9 pm have had their hours cut back to 7:45. Sunrise now is three-quarters of an hour later than it was at summer's turn. The sun, as we say, is edging south; it has begun its slow journey back to the equator. The lilacs are past and the leaves hang heavy. The grass has a singed look, and the shade is darker than it was. The chorus of birdsong diminishes now. The time of ardent song is past. There are fewer songs of ecstasy, more parental alarms and scoldings. The birds no longer sing their territorial or mating songs.

How much of summer is over

==== MCGIVNEY FROM PAGE 15 =====

needs are met. It's a place where they feel comfortable and safe with a caring staff looking after them. We have a lot of good kids here."

One of the "good kids" was Leahyla Cruz, who recently graduated from Mitchell College in New London and is doing an internship at McGivney.

"This place did a lot to provide opportunities for me when I was growing up," she said. "It kept me on track and focused on my education." Leahyla started the summer program at six years old and stayed until she was 13. After Kolbe Cathedral High School, she enrolled in Mitchell, where she earned a degree in sports management and health and fitness. Her dream is to open a recreational center in Bridgeport.

An Idea Becomes Reality

It all began almost 30 years ago, when two men from St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull went on retreat ... and discussed how they could make their small part of the world a better place. Tony Forni was a retired GE executive, and Greg Salmini was president of J.P. Salmini Company in Milford.

Greg listened as Tony told him about the food pantry at St. Charles

Parish and about an idea he had to help youth on the East Side.

before it begins. Thoreau wrote in his journal, "How early in the year it begins to be late!" The wish of childhood revives again, the longing to hold back the season, the wish to be back at the beginning when the road seemed like it would go on and on. I let each summer day slip away unwillingly. Summer's stay is all too short; it is too beautiful to stay. Summer's end always brings to me the loneliness of a summer lost. Indeed, it makes me think of all lost and lovely things. I've known a number of dying people who hoped and prayed for the gift of another summer.

The withering away of this happy season may be a spiritual lesson of the season. The summer is like life—it is later than you think, the business can be over and done with before you fully begin. There is the tyranny of time. You cannot conquer time. I become angry with time for passing. I sigh for lost years, for those

lost days never to be relived. "Time tires of everyone" (W.H. Auden, "Doomsday Song").

In his poem "The Wreck of the Deutschland," Gerard Manley Hopkins compares the transitory nature of life with sand slipping inevitably through an hourglass.

Life runs out of next times. It drums the certainty into one's mind about the unique treasure of each moment. We accept time as long as it is given to us and use it as well as we can. Galatians 6:10: "Therefore, while we have time, let us do good to all people, especially to those of the household of the faith."

Everything has an end. How small a part of time we share. But right now, summer is still with us. It is still the time of long golden days and soft blue nights. Let us not let them go unused. Let us exult in them, when it is a joy just to be alive. Blessings on your summer. ■

includes a basketball and a book.

Tony died at 95 years old in 2015 and was honored posthumously with the other two founders at the 25th anniversary of the McGivney Center. To this day, Greg recalls what Tony told him as they drove home from the retreat: "It's not just what you do on Sunday, but what you do the rest of the week that counts."

Terry O'Connor, executive director of McGivney Community Center for the past six years, has seen the success of young men and women in college and professional sports, in business, politics and civic leadership, all of them inspired by the athletic, educational and social opportunities the center provides.

O'Connor, who will retire at the end of the year, is credited with significant changes to the McGivney Center, including refurbishing the gym, along with upgrading the kitchen, computer room, 'chill spot' and arts and crafts room. In addition, he has planned for several new learning programs.

He says the McGivney Center is now, as it has been since its founding, committed to the community and loyal to its motto, "Kids at McGivney don't come and go, they come and grow." ■

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Column: Joe Pisani



A saint like the rest of us

SWIMMING UPSTREAM

BY JOE PISANI

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

I pray to many saints. Certainly Our Lady and my patron, St. Joseph. And I can't forget St. Ann, although I often forget St. Joachim. Then, there are the virgin martyrs like Agnes and Agatha, whom I often think about when I have a personal ordeal and realize how small my suffering is compared to what they endured.

Of all the saints, one of my favorites is St. Martha, the sister of Mary and Lazarus. Perhaps because she was a complainer, and I can identify with complainers. Perhaps because she was a compulsive homemaker, and I can identify with compulsive homemakers since I've lived with them throughout my life. Or perhaps because she got stuck with all the work while everyone else was enjoying themselves. Does that sound familiar?

This is St. Luke's account of what happened when Jesus and his disciples visited Martha's home in Bethany:

"Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him

and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.' But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'"

Over the centuries, Scripture scholars have used the story to illuminate the difference between the active and contemplative life.

I've often wondered if there was part of that exchange between Martha and Jesus that Luke left out, which might have gone something like this:

Martha: "Lord, tell my sister to get in here and help me."

Jesus: "Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

Martha: "Well, I guess no one's going to be eating tonight."

All of us have that same sense of violated fairness that provoked Martha to complain to Jesus. We've had it since childhood, especially if we got stuck doing all the chores while our siblings

were outside playing. As kids we'd typically complain, "It's NOT fair!"

I've lost count of the times I've heard my wife's voice bellowing from the kitchen, "NO ONE IS HELPING ME! YOU BETTER GET IN HERE NOW!" while my four daughters and I were preoccupied with computer games, the Internet, music, reading or chitchatting. And promptly, iPads were shut, books were closed, headphones were taken off and everyone snapped to attention.

Mary may have taken the better part, but Martha stands out in all her wonderful human imperfection in the Gospel. Like her, I'm usually "worried and distracted by many things."

On another occasion when the chips were down, Martha got up and got out, leaving a house

filled with mourners to run and meet Jesus on the road after her brother Lazarus died. She was forthright enough to confront the Son of God with her plaintive plea, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died!" which was followed by her ardent profession of faith: "Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

It's so easy to relate to Martha's humanity, and certainly her faith and love of Christ. We have devotional candles to St. Martha, whose name means "Lady of the house," in our prayer room, and I never hesitate to call out to her for help because if she got up and went to Christ after her brother died, she'll do the same for us and intercede before the Throne of God.

Martha is the patron saint of

cooks and servants, and her feast day is July 29. Even those of us who don't know how to cook can identify with her because she was just like us—and yet she was privileged to serve the Son of God.

The last story about Martha in the Gospel occurs when Jesus stops in Bethany on his way to Jerusalem and his Passion. Mary anoints his feet with expensive perfume. And John simply notes, "Martha served." How telling are those words?

In so many ways, Martha shared Our Lord's commitment to service. In Mark's Gospel, one statement captures the essence of Jesus' mission when he says, "For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Martha served.

(Joe Pisani can be reached at joepisani@yahoo.com.)

BLUE MASS FROM PAGE 3

Police Department; Rev. Robert J. Post, Stamford Fire Department; Msgr. William J. Scheyd, New Canaan Emergency Services and Norwalk Fire Department (Retired); Msgr. Richard J. Shea, Trumbull Police Department; Rev. Michael Dunn, Weston Police and Fire Departments; Rev. Joseph Cervero, Redding Police Department; Deacon Frank Masso, Huntington Volunteer Fire Company No. 3; Rev. Nicholas Pavia, Stratford Police Department; Deacon John DeRoin, Stony Hill Fire Department & EMS, Bethel.

The Blue Mass takes its name from the blue uniforms worn by police, fire and emergency services personnel. Founded by Bishop William E. Lori, the Blue Mass was initiated to celebrate the life and heroism of those who died during the 9-11 terrorist attacks in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington D.C. Each year awards are presented to individual local Police, Fire and First Responders for acts of heroism and public service.

(For further information or to reserve a seat, contact Elizabeth Auda 203.416.1636, email: eauda@diobpt.org.)

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Bits and Pieces

YOUNG WOMEN'S RETREAT "You are God's Masterpiece" for women between the ages of 18-26 will be sponsored by Magnificat Women's Ministry on Sat., **August 4**, at St. Joseph Parish, Danbury, from 9

am-3 pm. The day will include talks from local young women, small group discussion and the documentary film "Speaking to Sparrows." Cost: \$20; includes snacks and drinks. Bring your own bag lunch. For more

info, contact Roxane Angotta at angotta@sbcglobal.net or 203.512.0201.

ST. VINCENT'S SWIM Across the Sound is sponsoring the 21st Annual Memorial Service for loved ones lost to cancer Sun., **August 5**, at 8:30 am at Captain's Cove Seaport in Bridgeport. Registration begins at 8 am. No charge, and open to all who have lost a loved one to cancer. The service will include the reading of names of deceased loved ones submitted by participants, followed by the symbolic scattering of sunflowers, representing each person and the glory of life, onto Long Island Sound. For more info, contact Lucinda Ames: 475.210.5550 or lames@ascension.org.

CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS of Greater Danbury (18-35) will gather Tues., **August 7**, at 6:45 pm for a Praise and Worship Holy Hour at Sacred Heart Parish, Danbury, followed by a social at a local eatery. Email catholic.ya.danbury@gmail.com for more info or to be placed on our email list. You can also join our Facebook Group "Catholic Young Adults of Greater Danbury." for updates.

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

CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS of Greater Danbury, (18-35), will be road-tripping to the Palisades Mall, 1000 Palisades Center Dr., West Nyack, N.Y., on Sat., **August 18**. The carpool will meet at Sacred Heart Parish, Danbury, at 2 pm; return around 10 pm. Come join us for some fun at a five-story mall where we will go to Dave and Busters and other fun places. Email catholic.ya.danbury@gmail.com for more info or to be placed on our email list. You can also join our Facebook Group "Catholic Young Adults of Greater Danbury." for updates.

BLOCK PARTY at Our Lady of Peace Parish, Stratford, on Sat., **Sept. 8**, starting at 5:30 pm will feature food, live music, children's games and fun for all. Cost: \$15, adults; \$5 for children under 12 years old. For more info or to volunteer, contact Mike Morin: mikef.morin@gmail.com or 203.520.7319.

BEREAVEMENT

MINISTRY support group meets the second Sunday of every month (**Sept. 9**) at St. Lawrence Parish, Shelton. For more info, call 203.929.8499.

VETERAN'S BRICK: To ensure installation, by Veterans Day 2018, the deadline for donating a Veteran's Brick to the St. Margaret Shrine Veterans Memorial, Bridgeport, is Mon., **Sept. 10**. The names of the veterans on the newly donated bricks will be read at our Annual Veterans Mass in October. For more info, call 203.345.3244.

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY: A new 12-session program over nine months will begin at St. Jude Parish, Monroe, on Wed., **Sept. 12**, from 2:30-4 pm. Sessions will be held twice a month Sept. thru Nov., and then once a month, concluding in May. Registration required. For more info or to register, call the parish: 203.261.6404.

GOLFERS: reserve your spot for the IHS Golf Outing to take place on Wed., **Sept. 19**, at Richter Park, Danbury. Includes 18 holes of golf, cart fee, continental breakfast, lunch, awards reception, dinner and silent auction. For reservations, go to www.immaculatehs.org/golf. For more info, contact Debbie Basile: 203.744.1510, ext. 159 or [\[ile@myimmaculatehs.org\]\(mailto:ile@myimmaculatehs.org\).](mailto:dbas-</p>
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SPIRITUAL JOURNEY to Jordan, the Holy Land and Dubai with Fr. Marcel Saint Jean: Sun., **Sept. 23-Sat., Oct. 6**. Price: \$3,899 includes airline tickets, all taxes, hotels, breakfast and dinner daily, sightseeing, tips for guides and transportation to JFK. For more info and for reservations, contact Fr. Marcel Saint Jean at Christ the King Parish, Trumbull: 203.434.7208 or 203.268.8695, or marcelsaintjean@gmail.com.

VENDOR APPLICATIONS now being accepted for the Fall Festival at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish, Brookfield to be held Sat., **Nov. 3**. For an application, visit "Breaking News" at stmarguerite.org or call 203.775.5117, ext. 213.

ENCOURAGE apostolate for friends and family of loved ones with same-sex attractions or gender ID confusion. Confidential meetings are held 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.

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