

# FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC

FEBRUARY 2019 | VOLUME 36, NUMBER 2 | WINTER ISSUE

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The 46th Annual March for Life



13-16 *'We Stand With Christ'*  
supports parishes & three foundations

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

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# March for Life

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# Leadership Institute

## Formation gatherings offer a reflection on missionary discipleship

By ELIZABETH CLYONS

WESTON—More than 50 people attended a formation gathering on Sunday, January 27 at St. Francis of Assisi in Weston. “Today is about you talking to each other and listening to our bishop, who challenges us to accept Pope Francis’ call to be missionary disciples,” said Patrick Donovan, director of the Leadership Institute and coordinator of these formation gatherings.

As part of the introduction to the revised Norms Governing

Liturgical Ministries, face-to-face formation gatherings have been attended by nearly 800 in the first twelve sessions. There are an additional thirty-seven sessions scheduled.

“Why are we doing this?” Donovan addressed the gathered, “We are responding to the pope’s challenge to go forth as missionary disciples, to be the now of God... what a great challenge for all of us.”

The revised norms offer standards and required formation for those who serve as readers (pro-

claimers of the Word at Mass), Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC), altar servers and musicians.

Face-to-face formation gatherings offer resources, such as a video address from Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, reflection questions, a glossary of liturgical terms, a visual guide to items found at Mass and selected Scripture passages targeted to each group.

In the video message from Bishop Caggiano, he reflected on how one can become a missionary disciple in our daily lives.



FACE TO FACE—As part of the introduction to the revised Norms Governing Liturgical Ministries, face-to-face formation gatherings have been attended by nearly 800 in the first twelve sessions. There are an additional thirty-seven sessions scheduled.

### Saint John Paul II Fund for Religious Education and Youth Ministry 2019 Application

238 Jewett Avenue, Bridgeport, Connecticut 06606

Once again we invite you to apply for funding as a means to respond to Bishop Caggiano’s invitation to lifelong formation. We applaud the 2018 inaugural projects to reimagine faith formation at every level. The **Saint John Paul II Fund for Religious Education and Youth Ministry** is committed to building on the momentum established in 2018 by offering grant opportunities for “innovations so great we will be compelled to replicate it.” — Bishop Frank J. Caggiano

We are pleased to offer grants from \$2,000 to \$10,000 each year. Proposals are to seek truly innovative widespread reform. Requests in excess of \$5,000 should be so innovative that they seek to change the very fabric of formation in a given parish.



#### 2019 Grant Timeline

April 1, 2019 .....Application deadline  
June 2019 .....Decision  
August 2019.....Monies distributed

#### Reporting Timeline

January 15, 2020 .....Mid-Year Report  
May 1, 2020 .....Final Report

#### 2019 Grant Criteria

Grants may be used for projects in parishes within the Diocese of Bridgeport that:

- Creatively energize Faith Formation
- Engage individuals/groups that have been underserved
- Enhance ministry to include extended family members
- Reflect and embrace the tenants of An Invitation to Lifelong Formation

#### Grants may not be used to:

- Contribute to a capital expense
- Pay down existing debt
- Donate to an organization or institution outside the parish

#### For Successful Applicants

Those who receive grants from the Saint John Paul II Fund will be expected to:

- Complete two reports; Mid-Year report due January 15, 2020 and Final Report due May 1, 2020 outlining the ministry opportunities made possible by the grant. A report form will be provided to you.
- Publish a note of thanks in the Sunday parish bulletin, calling attention to the support from Saint John Paul II Fund for Religious Education and Youth Ministry.

“Evangelization is all about a person... that person is Jesus. In our 20th century, the challenges are new. We must bring them in service of preaching the Good News,” said the bishop.

The bishop explained that in order to do this one must remember the mission. “We are meant to be a window into the heart of Jesus to those on the peripheries, those on the outskirts.”

“Sometimes those in the peripheries are sitting next to us at Mass,” Donovan added.

“We are investing in our lives by investing in the lives of others,” said the bishop.

Attendees were able to participate in small-group discussion about certain traps one can fall into while participating in ministry, such as the trap of over-planning, excessive activity and rivalry, which led to a lively discussion.

“Most of us have been serving here for more than 30 years,” remarked one attendee. “We’ve watched our kids grow up here together,” remarked another, reflective of how dedicated those

who serve in liturgical ministry are.

Donovan explained that online formation gives Scriptural reasoning for what is being done through each ministry at Mass.

“This formation is a reminder of what it’s all about, to make sure the sheep understand what the Shepherd is asking of us and inviting us to participate in at Mass,” remarked Father Jeffrey Couture, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi in Weston.

Donovan explained that these new norms are an experimentum for a year after their promulgation in order to consider feedback from those participating in formation. He added that during the Feast of Corpus Christi in June, each pastor in the diocese will preach on the liturgy in order to introduce parishioners to the meanings and reasonings behind the new norms.

Face-to-face formation gatherings are expected to bring together more than 4,000 participants when they conclude in May.

(For more information on formation gatherings and the new liturgical norms visit: [formationreimagined.org](http://formationreimagined.org).)



#### ON THE COVER

**THE 46TH ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE—**  
*Groups from around the diocese joined this year’s march at a time when the defense of human life has been brought to the forefront of public, political and personal thought.*

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# Latest News

## Anonymous gift for Adoration Chapel in Stamford

By JOE PISANI

STAMFORD — An anonymous gift from a Greenwich couple will make possible an adoration chapel dedicated to St. John Vianney that will be “spiritually transformative” for the Diocese of Bridgeport, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano said.

The chapel, which will be attached to St. John Fisher Seminary, will be open for Eucharistic Adoration day and night and give people a place to pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament for themselves, their families, their parishes and their priests, he said.

“Every city needs a heart, a center, and usually in a city like Stamford, the center is the downtown. In my imagination, the Catholic heart will be this chapel,” Bishop Caggiano said. “We will draw spiritual energy from this chapel. It will be a place of beauty, rest and repose, and intercession before the Lord.”



ST. JOHN FISHER SEMINARY, STAMFORD, the site for the proposed new Adoration Chapel, which will be open for Eucharistic Adoration day and night and give people a place to pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament for themselves, their families, their parishes and their priests.

Since the chapel will be situated on the campus of the seminary, Trinity Catholic High School and the Catholic Academy of Stamford, his wish is that young people will learn to spend quiet time in prayer in the Lord’s Eucharistic presence.

The proposed site plan for the chapel, which will be built in the style of “country Gothic,” according to Deacon Patrick Toole,

episcopal delegate for administration, will be submitted to the city for approval. The plans were developed by Ecclesiastical Art & Design Ltd. of Yonkers, N.Y. The diocese would like to break ground in June and expects the project to be completed in 18 months.

The chapel, which will replace the small adoration chapel in the seminary, will be dedicated to St. John Vianney, patron saint of par-

ish priests, in the hope that prayer will be offered before the Blessed Sacrament for vocations and priests. It will seat 72 people, symbolic of the 72 disciples that Jesus sent out to preach the Good News.

The chapel, which will be integral to the seminary, has adoration of the Blessed Sacrament as its primary purpose in addition to functioning as a place for catechesis and spiritual life for the

community, Deacon Toole said.

A walkway lined with Spanish pines will lead from Newfield Avenue to a plaza with a statue of the Blessed Mother and the main entrance. The stained glass windows of the chapel came from Holy Rosary Church in Bridgeport, which was closed in 2012. Looking at the chapel from the street, people will be able to see the stained glass window of the Resurrection.

An inlaid tile mosaic on the floor will contain the symbols of St. John Vianney—the chalice, the Gospel and a stole—surrounded by the symbols of the martyr St. Philomena, to whom St. John Vianney had a devotion—the lily, an anchor, a palm leave and arrows.

The rose window, which is a circular stained glass window suggesting a rose and symbolic of the Blessed Virgin who has the title “Mystical Rose,” came from Holy Rosary Church and is ded-

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

## Priest confraternity committed to adoration

By JOE PISANI

STAMFORD—When Bishop Frank J. Caggiano received a book from a priest in Darien, he sat down and started to read it right away. This wasn’t just any ordinary book. *In Sinu Jesu* is the journal of a Benedictine monk, who recounts the graces and inspirations he has received from Jesus during prayer. He accentuates the importance of Eucharistic Adoration and the Rosary, as well as the purification and sanctification of the priesthood. The monk believes Jesus shared with him concrete insights and a spiritual roadmap for the Church in a tumultuous time.

“The book was given to me as a gift from Father Chris Perrella,” Bishop Caggiano recalls. “It took me a few months to read, and it touched my heart. I thought to myself, ‘This is a recipe for renewal.’”

And the renewal has begun. Bishop Caggiano recently issued a decree establishing The Priestly Confraternity of St. John Vianney, patron saint of parish

priests. With almost 20 members, this spiritual association was formed to “deepen the personal holiness of each member by fostering Eucharistic spirituality.”

As a member of the confraternity, each priest makes a commitment to daily celebration of the Eucharist, daily Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, monthly confession, acts of reparation for past and present sins incurred by the clergy, attendance at monthly Eucharistic Holy Hour offered by members and an annual day of prayer hosted by the bishop.

The spiritual home for the confraternity will be the new Adoration chapel to be built at St. John Fisher Seminary.

The idea was inspired by the Benedictine monk’s journal, in which he shares the interior voice and words Jesus has placed on his heart. The Latin title of the book means “on the breast of Jesus,” referring to St. John at the Last Supper, resting his head against the Lord’s heart. The monk writes that Jesus urges priests to be like St. John, close to the Sacred Heart and close to



IN SINU JESU—Father Chris Perrella came upon the book quite providentially a year ago while browsing through titles on Amazon. He later gave it as a gift to Bishop Caggiano, who was inspired to establish The Priestly Confraternity of St. John Vianney, patron saint of parish priests. With almost 20 members, this spiritual association was formed to “deepen the personal holiness of each member by fostering Eucharistic spirituality.”

the Blessed Mother, and to form groups of priest adorers of the Blessed Sacrament.

According to the author, Jesus is explicit in saying that the power of Adoration and the Rosary are the weapons he has given us to resolve the crisis in the Church at this time. For example, Eucharistic Adoration

chapelers are “the radiant, pulsating centers of an intense Divine activity that goes beyond the walls of the place where I am adored to penetrate homes, and schools, and hospitals; to reach even those dark and cold places wherein souls are enslaved to Satan; to penetrate hearts, heal the infirm, and call home those who have

wandered far from Me.”

Eucharistic Adoration is “supernaturally efficacious” and much more powerful—a supernatural weapon—than purely human solutions that beset the Church.

Father Perrella came upon the book quite providentially a year ago while browsing through titles on Amazon. He bought it on a whim and said, “It cut me to the heart when I began to read it.”

Eucharistic Adoration has been part of his life since he was young, in his parish church in New Hampshire, in high school and later in college at Franciscan University in Steubenville.

“Even more than ‘doing,’ God wants us to be with him,” Father said. “He is saying, ‘I don’t need you to do anything, just be in my presence even when you are distracted.’”

One day while he was reading the book during Adoration, the thought came to him to send a copy to Bishop Caggiano, who later invited him to lunch to talk about the book.

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

# Pinstripe Mass

## Bishop to celebrate 11th Business Leaders Mass

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

FAIRFIELD—The Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano, bishop of Bridgeport invites business and finance executives to join him on March 24 for the Business Leaders Mass (The “Pin-Stripe Mass”) and breakfast at St. Matthew Church in Norwalk. Mass will begin at 9 am and be followed by breakfast in the Great Room of St. Matthew Parish.

Bishop Caggiano said, “I am delighted to renew this effort in

continuing to engage with business and finance leaders, as well as those in the public sector, to ensure the social dimension of economic activity is effectively promoted.”

The event, co-sponsored with Centesimus Annus-Pro Pontifice (CAPP-USA), represents the 11th gathering of the diocese’s business leaders by the bishop of Bridgeport. Joining in co-sponsoring this year’s gathering is Legatus.

Bishop Caggiano is the Assistant National Ecclesiastical

Counselor to CAPP in the United States and joined the group at the Vatican for their 25th anniversary in May 2018 where Pope Francis told them: “Your foundation has a vital role to play in bringing the light of the Gospel message to these pressing humanitarian concerns, and in assisting the Church to carry out this essential aspect of her mission.”

CAPP’s U.S. founder Robert A. Nalewajek, who was honored to close the 25th anniversary gathering at the Vatican, has been



BISHOP FRANK J. CAGGIANO



ROBERT A. NALEWAJEK

invited to address the breakfast. His topic will be: “Applying Catholic Social Teaching at Work and in the Public Square: Why it’s Our Job.” Bob is also a member of Legatus.

In his invitation letter to business leaders Bishop Caggiano urged them to bring the words of Pope Francis to life: “Dear friends, by sharing your own knowledge and expertise, and by making known the richness of the Church’s social doctrine, you seek to form the consciences of leaders in the political, social and economic sectors” (Address to CAPP, 26 May 2018).

Founded by Pope Saint John Paul II in 1993 to promote the knowledge and practice of Catholic social teaching (CST), CAPP is unique in Church history as the only lay led organization with canonical standing in

the Church and juridical standing in Vatican State. Its goal is to have CST implemented in society through lay Catholic business, academic and professional leaders. The Diocese of Bridgeport was the first diocese in the United States to establish a group.

Founded by Thomas S. Monaghan, Legatus members are business leaders—men and women with varying interests and diverse talents who all share one overriding goal: to become better Catholics and, in turn, positively impact their business and personal lives. With Bishop Caggiano’s support a chapter was re-established in the diocese in 2017.

Tickets for the event are \$50 each or \$400 for a table of eight. (For more information or for tickets, visit [www.BridgeportDiocese.org/pinstripe](http://www.BridgeportDiocese.org/pinstripe) or call Patricia Hansen at 203.416.1342.)

You can never make up for your abortion  
But you don't have to  
He already has!



Come Home to His Mercy this Lent!

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Hope & Healing Weekend

For women suffering because of a past abortion

Director: Rev. Fidelis Moscinski, CFR

March 29-31, 2019

“Let us not close our hearts, let us not lose confidence, let us never give up: there are no situations which God cannot change, there is no sin which he cannot forgive if only we open ourselves to him.”

Pope Francis - Easter Vigil

“I went to an Entering Canaan Retreat Weekend. As amazing as it sounds, it was during this weekend that my healing took place. It was then that I truly felt God's mercy and grace.

With God's grace, I was finally able to accept His forgiveness. I am now closer to understanding the cross and Jesus' excruciatingly painful death for us so that we may live. I understand that He hates my sins but loves me dearly and longs to heal me.

[www.enteringcanaan.com](http://www.enteringcanaan.com)

For more information contact  
Maureen Ciardiello  
Coordinator for Respect Life &  
Project Rachel  
[mciardiello@diobpt.org](mailto:mciardiello@diobpt.org)  
203-416-1445



Sponsored by Diocese of Bridgeport, Project Rachel & Luminal Hope & Healing After Abortion

# HEALING & ANOINTING Mass

Saturday,  
April 6, 2019  
11 a.m.

Saint Francis of Assisi Church  
35 Norfield Road  
Weston, CT 06883

Mass Celebrated by  
Most Rev. Frank J. Caggiano



QUESTIONS?

OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

203-416-1670 | [OfficeOfFaithFormation@diobpt.org](mailto:OfficeOfFaithFormation@diobpt.org)

# Saint Catherine of Siena, Greenwich

## A beloved pastor retires after years of service

By JOE PISANI

Back in the 1950s, when Alan Detscher was an altar boy at Sacred Heart Church in Byram, he missed two Masses...and the pastor “fired” him. It could have been an inauspicious start for a young man who was destined to the priesthood, but he took it in stride and pursued his vocation, which over 47 years took him from Greenwich to Rome and Washington and back again.

Msgr. Alan Detscher is retiring after 23 years at St. Catherine of Siena church in Riverside, which during his tenure as pastor has seen major renovations, the creation of new ministries and a restructuring of religious education and faith formation programs.

Monsignor, who has worked in different national and diocesan offices, holds degrees in sacred liturgy, a topic on which he has written numerous books and articles. He is particularly proud of the American edition of the *Book of Blessings*, which includes many prayers he wrote.

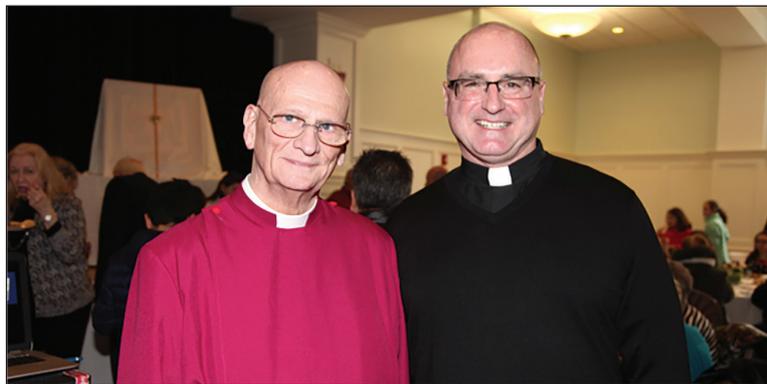
He still recalls the time he was rushed to a hospital in Washington with a perforated colon. “I was in agony, I couldn’t sit, I couldn’t stand and the chaplain came in and wanted to anoint me,” he said. “As he began the rite, I realized he was using a prayer that I wrote.” It moved him to think of the far-reaching effect his words could have.

Commenting on his lifelong love of liturgy, Monsignor said, “For me, the liturgy has been the bond that has helped me to understand what the Church is. If I have done anything in my 47 years of being a priest, if I have helped and encouraged people to celebrate the liturgy well, then I have done something good for the Church.”

Much of Monsignor’s life has centered on Greenwich, where he was born on May 13, 1945. The son of Elizabeth Fuhr and Francis Detscher Sr., he attended Byram Elementary School and Greenwich High. His name was well known to people in town because of the family-owned Detscher’s Bakery.

When he entered Georgetown University, his original intention was to pursue a career in medicine, but then the Holy Spirit intervened.

“I was from a diocesan parish



MSGR. ALAN DETSCHER, WHO IS RETIRING after 23 years at St. Catherine of Siena Church in Riverside with Father William Platt, who was installed as the parish’s eighth pastor on February 3, 2019.

and that was my image of the priesthood,” he says, proudly noting that Sacred Heart has had more vocations than any other parish. For much of his young life, he was around priests, and their example proved to be an inspiration.

“I served Mass all through high school, and also for the Jesuit residents at Georgetown,” he recalled.

He credits his mother Elizabeth, a non-Catholic, with his early faith formation—she made sure he and his brother and sister went to Mass.

Because she was a Methodist, his parents were married in the rectory and not the church, he notes sadly. “She also had to promise that she would raise me as a Catholic. My parents were willing to do what the Church required,” he said. “When they were married 50 years, I got to go to Sacred Heart and renew their vows...in the church.”

One of the most precious memories of his priesthood occurred three weeks before his mother died when, he says, “I received her into the Church and gave her her first and last Communion.”

His mother Elizabeth was a teller at Byram National Bank and did all the bookkeeping for the family bakery. His father, Francis, was a summa cum laude graduate of the University of Notre Dame, who taught English and social studies at Greenwich High and eventually left teaching to work full-time at the bakery.

In his sophomore year, Monsignor left Georgetown and went to Saint John’s Seminary in Brighton, Mass., earning a bachelor’s degree in philosophy and one in divinity. He also attended Woodstock College of Theology, receiving a master’s of sacred the-

ology in liturgy. He later earned a license in sacred liturgy, summa cum laude, and a doctorate in sacred liturgy, summa cum laude, from the Pontifical Liturgical Institute in Rome.

He was ordained by Bishop Walter W. Curtis on May 15, 1971 and his first assignment was at St. Patrick’s Church in Bridgeport. Monsignor has held numerous diocesan and national positions, including Secretary to Bishop Curtis, diocesan director of liturgy, director of the diocesan office for ecumenical and interreligious affairs, and executive director of the secretariat for liturgy of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

He fondly recalls Bishop Walter Curtis and says he was like a father: “He transformed the diocese and helped transform me too.”

While he was a deacon, he spent a year at St. Roch’s in Byram, where the pastor let him preach every other day.

“Preaching became important to me,” he says. “He let me preach, and it helped me.” He said his time at St. Roch’s also provided him with an immersion in the Italian culture, noting that parishioners were often outside the church after Mass, joyfully hugging and kissing.

One of his closest friends is Deacon Renato Berzolla, who has known him 25 years. When he describes Monsignor, Deacon Berzolla uses the Italian word for faith—“fede,” whose letters are representative of Monsignor’s faithfulness, empathy, availability and example.

“This best describes Monsignor because he is a real man of faith,” Deacon Berzolla said. “He was always faithful to his superiors, the Church and

everyone in the parish. And to do that, you have to be an acrobat.”

“He not only preached the Gospel, but lived the Gospel,” Deacon Berzolla said. “He was like an old-fashioned priest that people felt they could go to with their problems.” He is convinced that if any of his 14 grandchildren had something that bothered them, they would go to Monsignor without hesitation.

Reflecting on his 47 years as a priest, Msgr. Detscher said, “St. Catherine’s has been my home

for almost 23 years. As my family has gotten smaller and smaller, people here have become my family. They are a part of my life, and I give thanks for that and for the priests I have worked with who helped me in many ways. Father Platt and Father D’Silva have been good colleagues and friends. I wish Father Platt the best as the new pastor. I know he will continue many practices and do new things. We often need the challenge of someone else doing things another way.”

## Father Platt installed as pastor

By JOE PISANI

When Father William Platt visited Hall-Brooke Hospital in Westport, he would be approached by a young man suffering from a psychosis that made him angry and sometimes violent. From across the unit, he would yell, “Hey, could you bring me Jesus?”

In his role as chaplain, Father would talk with him and give him Communion ... and the change that came over him was immediate and perceptible.

“For a few brief minutes, when he received the Eucharist, he became himself again,” Father recalls. “The anger and violence went away. He changed and even the doctors noticed it.”

Father Platt, the diocesan director of hospital chaplains, has spent more than 20 years of his priesthood in chaplaincy positions throughout the diocese and in Florida, ministering to the sick and suffering in healthcare settings he describes as “beautiful, caring and holy places” that provide opportunities to bring Christ to people when they are the most vulnerable.

Long associated with St. Catherine of Siena Church in Riverside, Father Platt first came to the parish in 1985 as a seminarian and worked with the late Fr. Vincent O’Connor. In recent years, he has served as parochial vicar, and on February 3 was installed as the parish’s eighth pastor by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, succeeding Msgr. Alan Detscher.

“I’m excited about becoming pastor,” Father said. “I have been a member of this community for most of my priesthood in different ways, so the parish feels like my family.”

Known throughout the diocese for his compassionate work at Hall-Brooke Hospital, St. Vincent Medical Center and Greenwich Hospital, Father is a board certified chaplain with the National Association of Catholic Chaplains.

In 1995, he completed a residency in clinical pastoral education at St. Raphael Hospital in New Haven and served as the chaplain in an oncology unit and out-patient psychiatric center. From there, he became chaplain at Greenwich Hospital and assisted at St. Catherine of Siena. Later he was appointed pastor of St. Paul Church in Glenville. He has also served as chaplain at Mercy Hospital in Miami, St. Mary Hospital in Waterbury and St. Vincent Health Services.

As diocesan director of hospital chaplains, he supervises the coverage of 13 priests/chaplains, who are on call 24-7, and he serves as liaison between the bishop and regional healthcare facilities.

Regarding his assignment at St. Catherine’s, he hopes to build on the work of Msgr. Detscher and further his relationship with the parish that has come to be his family.

# Local News

## Faith leads man to visit Basilicas and Shrines

By ELIZABETH CLYONS

FAIRFIELD—"I have learned that every place that I have been to is different from the one before. Experiencing different people, history and culture is an incredible adventure," says Andrew Masi, 31, who has traveled to 78 out of 192 cathedrals and 43 out of 85 basilicas in the United States. "Life is like a classroom, you are always learning something different every day."

Growing up, the idea of going to church on Sundays wasn't something Masi found appealing. "I was more interested in hanging out with my friends, playing sports and video games, and watching movies," says Masi, who is an active parishioner of Our Lady of Assumption Parish in Fairfield.

It wasn't until Andrew experienced what he calls a "spiritual awakening" after attending the

Diocese of Bridgeport's 50th Anniversary Mass in 2003 that he really found his faith. "At that Mass I felt that God was calling me back to the Church. So, I went back, rediscovered my faith and converted to Catholicism with the support of my family in 2005. Ever since, my life has been filled with joy and many blessings," says Masi, who now works at a public relations firm in Westport.

Andrew grew up in a large Italian family where love of each other, faith and fine cooking influenced him from an early age. Being adopted from Columbia, South America, Masi credits both God and his family for his many blessings. "According to my parents, I was so sick as a baby that the doctors said it was a miracle I survived. It was a blessing from God that I made it and was able to thrive. I give both Him and my family credit for me getting better and being able to have a good



THE BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE of the Immaculate Conception, Washington DC, one of the many beautiful places of prayer Masi has visited.

and productive life," he says.

In 2014, Masi was attending Easter Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, N.J. when the idea to see all of the cathedrals, basilicas and shrines in America came to him. "I was in the midst of praying when the idea came to mind. I thought it would be something different and new to try out in life," Andrew says. And try it, he did, as he has now been to 30 out

of 50 states in the country and continues to plan more journeys. "I have visited beautiful cities such as Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Miami, St. Louis, Minneapolis, Las Vegas and many more. I love visiting different places and meeting new people. It is quite an adventure!"

Andrew considers the idea for his journeys as encourage-

ANDREW MASI has traveled to 78 out of 192 cathedrals and 43 out of 85 basilicas in the United States.

ment from the Lord on how to strengthen his faith. Of the many places of worship he has seen, Masi says, "Each cathedral, basilica and shrine are unique and different because of the locations they are in, the people that worship there and the cultures of the area; but they all serve one faith: the Catholic faith."

Masi makes sure to document each of his visits, taking pictures and posting them on his personal Flickr page, as well as sharing them with his family and friends. "The churches that I have been to are wonderful places of worship, and I have prayed for my loved ones in each and every one of them," he says, "Without the prayers and the support of my family and friends I don't think I would have gotten this far. Of course it'll take me awhile to get to see all of them but with the prayers, support and love of my family and friends I will make it to the finish line." ■



### PINSTRIPES MASS

FOR ALL BUSINESS AND FINANCE LEADERS

**Sunday, March 24, 2019 | 9:00 a.m.**

Saint Matthew Church  
216 Scribner Avenue | Norwalk, Connecticut

Immediately followed by  
Breakfast in the Masterpool Great Room

Where CAPP's US founder, **Robert A. Nalewajek**, will speak on "*Applying Catholic Social Teaching at Work and in the Public Square: Why it's Our Job*"

**\$50 per ticket**  
**\$400 to sponsor a table of 8**

If you have any questions, please contact  
Patricia Hansen: 203.416.1342 or email [phansen@diobpt.org](mailto:phansen@diobpt.org)  
Reserve at: [www.bridgeportdiocese.org/pinstripe](http://www.bridgeportdiocese.org/pinstripe)

# Save the date

## St. John Fisher Seminary 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Rector's Dinner

### Forming Fishers of Men

Honoring  
Rev. Msgr. Stephen M. DiGiovanni  
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## May 18, 2019

Italian Center of Stamford | Stamford, CT

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# Adoration Chapel

NEW ADORATION CHAPEL FROM PAGE 3

icated to St. Anne, the mother of Mary. The restored stained glass contains the pendant of St. Anne and will be surrounded by different Marian symbols.

The high altar and altar rails are from Holy Rosary. On either side of the altar will be statues of the Blessed



Mother and St. John Vianney. The coat of arms of St. John Fisher will be placed at the entrance of the chapel to the seminary.

“Our vision for the chapel was to respect the Gothic elements of what we took from Holy Rosary and to also make it consistent and

organic to the seminary,” Deacon Toole said.

The goal, he said, is “to honor St. John Vianney and provide a place to pray for vocations and priests, a place that demonstrates the centrality of the Eucharist as the source and summit of our Christian life, where the faithful can come 24/7 to adore the Real Presence of Jesus Christ, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Blessed Sacrament.”

The chapel will also provide a powerful evangelical tool for the spiritual rebirth of the diocese and help animate all the evangelical programs, he said.

“Our hope is that the chapel will be integral to the parishes in Stamford and beyond and certainly integral to the spiritual life of the children at Stamford Academy and Trinity Catholic High School and to the seminary and our seminarians,” he said.

Father Paul Check, rector of St. John Fisher Seminary, said the seminarians begin every day

at 6:45 am, with a holy hour in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament and that they have taken as their motto St. Paul’s words in Galatians 2:20, “I have been crucified with Christ, and the life I live is not my own. It is Christ who is living in me.”

“My hope is that the construction of this chapel and the devotion of so many of the lay faithful, religious and clerics—my brother priests and deacons—to the Eucharist and the Heart of Christ will bring a flood of vocations to St. John Fisher,” Father Check said. “In that chapel, the Blessed Sacrament will be adored 24 hours a day, seven days a week, perpetually.”

He said, “Our great hope, particularly here at the seminary, is that the grace that will flow from the Adoration Chapel will come into the seminary for the men who are preparing for the priesthood, as well as for other men who will be drawn by God’s grace to answer the question, “Is the Lord asking me to be a priest?”

PRIEST CONFRATERNITY FROM PAGE 3

“I could tell it had moved him as well,” Father Perrella said. Bishop Caggiano, who learned the monk is originally from Connecticut, met with him. From these beginnings, the bishop formed the confraternity and asked Father Perrella to help. The group’s spiritual commitments are based on Jesus’ directions to the monk through prayer, which are centered on daily Eucharistic Adoration on behalf of priests and in reparation for sin.

“The Lord clearly wants more adoration, and for priests to make this commitment of being with him and consoling his heart with their presence and making reparation for those who should be in love with the Eucharist but aren’t,” he said.

Father Perrella emphasizes the importance of Eucharistic Adoration for all Catholics: “It is something that Our Lord invites everyone to do, even if only a little bit. I think the message of this book is that a little adoration goes a long way. If anybody gives a little time to the Lord in his presence, one will see a radical change in his or her life over time. There are graces that God wants to give to us in Eucharistic Adoration that we won’t find elsewhere. It is like a wellspring in the desert. Anyone can have it, but you have to come to the water.”

Equally important, adoration and the Rosary are the tools Jesus urges us to use at this time of turmoil in the Church and the world.

“Because of the scandals that have flared up, there is a lot of work to do in the Church,” Father Perrella says. “If you love the Lord, you want to be there for him, to offer support and comfort. It is a beautiful gift that the Lord allows us. Picture yourself going into the garden with him... We can’t take away the crush of sin of all time, but we can be with him and hold his hand. And the reward that God is willing to offer to anybody who is willing to give him a little comfort in his worst hour is unimaginable. Just to pray and be present, to adore him and love him. This moves our Lord’s heart tremendously.”



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# march for life

## The National March for Life

By Michelle P. Onofrio



“Even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor are masterpieces of God’s creation...and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect.” These words of Pope Francis adorned the windbreakers of a group of college students from St. Bonaventure University, who were gathered in Washington, D.C. for the National March for Life on Friday, January 18, 2019. I was one of them, this being my third journey to our nation’s capital for the largest pro-life demonstration in the country. As I stood in front of the stage (where the rally portion of the event was taking place) on the National Mall, surrounded by both friends and strangers, it became quite clear that the words on the back of our windbreakers were not anthems to us, alone, but to every person standing there, bundled in winter gear and more than ready to face the winter air with joyful spirits.

Although the March for Life is in its forty-sixth year, each March is different in some way, as Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life, pointed out in her address to the crowd.

Weather concerns, namely blizzards and sub-zero temperatures, are a few of the obstacles that marchers have faced, but they have done so with persistence. This year, the March for Life took place during a government shutdown, a phenomenon which has never occurred. Even with these circumstances, the spark of passion and enthusiasm was still visible and perhaps even more so.

The theme of the 2019 March for Life was “Unique from Day One,” with emphasis on the fact that the pro-life stance is not in opposition to science. As it is, science provides evidence that life does begin at conception. This knowledge is crucial to the pro-life movement, as its members seek to share it with politicians and lawmakers, with the hope of overturning Roe vs. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion in the United States.

Although the issue of abortion may seem rather political at this point in time, speakers at the March for Life rally reminded us that it is actually bipartisan. The need to protect human life at all stages, but particularly at the moment of conception, is one that surpasses political boundaries and can be

expressed by people from all walks of life, as it is a human rights issue. As Congressman Dan Lipinski (D-IL) said as he spoke to all who were gathered at the rally, “we’ve got all kinds of people here with different ideas. We’ve got Republicans, Independents, Democrats but we all agree on one thing: that life is sacred and needs to be protected.”

It was remarks like these that impressed me the most. Politicians, pro-life activists, religious leaders... each of them spoke words of truth and they did so unashamedly. They were not afraid to call out abortion for what it is: the deliberate taking of innocent human life. They did not hesitate to point out flaws in how the issue has been handled politically and socially. They were quick to call each of us to action—to continue to march and to fight for an end to abortion, for as long as it takes. Although the battle which we fight is against evil, we were inspired with profound hope, as the speakers helped us become aware of all the ways in which “life” is winning across the country, as testified by the overall decline of abortions.

As a college student, I could not appreciate more their bluntness and

frankness. Often times, I feel as though I am in the minority because I am pro-life. It can be challenging to speak up and share with people why I do not believe abortion is one of a woman’s “fundamental rights.” There is a fear of offending or of facing rejection. These fears are deemed “unattractive” by our society, at large. What the speakers did, however, was show us that the truth is attractive. Speaking truth boldly and without reservation is not just a “nice thing to do.” It’s what we need to do.

I carried this hope and appreciation for the beauty of truth with me as I marched toward the Supreme Court that day and I believe the thousands of people with whom I marched did so, as well. The two words that come to mind when I think of the atmosphere of the march are “peaceful” and “joyful.” Smiles, positive chants, young people standing in true solidarity with each other: these things are what add fuel to the flame of this fight against the culture of death for a culture of life. ■

“ I would like to thank and bless all those who attended and supported the March for Life. In a world that has strayed so far from the Gospel of life, I am inspired by their profound witness to the Truth. In a society where people want us to be quiet and not stand for the things we really believe in, I am proud of those who stand with the Lord and the Gospel of Life to show the world what we as Catholics really believe: In taking on human life, Christ has blessed every human life. What God has blessed, we too must bless, from the moment of natural conception to the moment of natural death.”

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano





# Connecticut Bishops' Message Affirming Life

*The recent passage of disturbing new abortion laws in New York State and public comments from Virginia political leaders has properly raised the public debate on abortion and the rights of the unborn and now born.*

*The following is a statement in response to these events by Archbishop Leonard P. Blair of the Archdiocese of Hartford, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano of the Bridgeport Diocese, Bishop Michael R. Cote of the Norwich Diocese and the Most Reverend Paul P. Chomnycky, OSBM, Ukrainian Eparchy of Stamford.*

February 7, 2019

Dear Friends in Christ:

On January 22, 2019, Governor Andrew Cuomo of New York signed into law the Reproductive Health Act (RHA), a tragic abortion expansion bill which allows for the killing of an unborn child until birth as a “fundamental” right. Safeguards that previously protected those infants accidentally born alive during an abortion have also been repealed under this new law. Other provisions of this unjust law also place the lives of women in jeopardy by allowing abortions to be performed by non-physicians at the discretion of the abortionist and preventing prosecution for an attack on an unborn child through criminal acts of violence or coerced abortion.

Other states such as Rhode Island, Virginia, and New Mexico are now trying to pass similar legislation.

We, the Catholic Bishops of Connecticut, unequivocally denounce such legislation and all legislation that allows the direct taking of human life at any stage of development, especially in the womb. We uphold the Church’s unchanging teaching that affirms every human life to be unique, precious, and a gift from God. It is a basic human right that every life be protected from the moment of conception to natural death.

At a time when we should be working together to better safeguard all lives and find common ground in our increasingly polarized society, the New York law makes late-term abortion more available by adopting an absolutist “pro-choice” position that is unacceptable and should speak to the conscience of all those who value life.

As a community of faith, we must continue to take a stand for our most vulnerable brothers and sisters in the womb and their mothers, who are often coerced and pressured into making choices against the life they carry. They need our prayers, support and accompaniment to help them choose life, especially when they face any difficulties during pregnancy.

For those who have undergone an abortion, the church stands ready to assist with healing and reconciliation through a variety of means, including Project Rachel, a program which manifests the forgiveness and mercy of God.

As we continue this struggle, we can remain confident that everything is in the hands of God who sees all, who judges justly, and from whose hand no one can be snatched away—especially an innocent unborn child.

Committed to prayer, education, advocacy and acts of reparation for the millions of lives already lost through abortion, we invite you to join us to serve as witnesses of the truth and defenders of human life in our society.

With every best wish and prayer, we remain



+ Leonard P. Blair  
Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair  
Archbishop of Hartford



+ Michael R. Cote  
Most Reverend Michael Cote  
Bishop of Norwich



+ Frank J. Caggiano  
Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano  
Bishop of Bridgeport



+ Paul P. Chomnycky, OSBM  
Most Reverend Paul P. Chomnycky, OSBM  
Ukrainian Eparchy of Stamford

# NY’s Denial of Life

By Deacon Paul Kurmay

I have practiced law for nearly 50 years and served as a judge for 36 years. In that span of time, I have never seen a state legislature enact such a condemnable piece of legislation as New York’s so-called Reproductive Health Act, which Governor Cuomo deliberately and delightedly signed into law on the anniversary of the infamous decision of Roe v. Wade. I realize full well that the subject of abortion is perhaps the most divisive and

tions during the first 24 weeks of pregnancy for virtually any reason based on “reasonable and good faith [professional] judgment.” During the third trimester, abortion is permitted (and apparently applauded) if “there is an absence of fetal viability, or the abortion is necessary to protect the patient’s life or health.” Never has one single word been given such life-taking power as that word “health.” The justification could be based on the mother’s



emotional issue of our time, and that the most strident of voices for and against abortion make it nearly impossible to have a serious, calm and reasonable discussion of the issue. But we can certainly try.

The law begins by stating that abortion and contraception are “a fundamental component of a woman’s health, privacy and equality, \*\*\* [and that] the intent of the legislature [is] to prevent the enforcement of laws or regulations that are not in furtherance of a legitimate state interest in protecting a woman’s health that burden abortion access.” It permits and approves of abor-

emotional or psychological health or the fact that even the most unlikely medical risk during delivery is deemed unacceptable. A mother could argue that she is unwilling to assume the small risk of having a stroke or heart attack during delivery (no matter how unlikely) because such potentialities threaten her health. The potential “threats” to health are virtually unlimited.

The act also de-criminalized abortion completely, with the stroke of a pen. There is no longer any criminal penalty, even for abortions not justified under the present law. In other

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

## EDITORIAL

No 'stand-ins'  
for faithful giving

The "We Stand with Christ" Capital Campaign went over the \$56 million mark earlier this month and appears to be on course to meet and exceed its \$75 million goal to support the work of renewal in the diocese.

The enthusiastic early response is great news. However, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano believes that the Capital Campaign will only be a spiritual success if everyone participates. "If we're one family, we're all responsible for each other and everyone in the family has a job to do," the bishop said at a recent Leadership Gathering for the campaign.

"We Stand with Christ" is not simply about reaching a fund raising goal; it is a call to build up the local Church, to better engage the faithful and to leave something for future generations. In the larger sense, the campaign is an investment in and affirmation of the Church's ability to change lives and save souls through faith, education and service.

In the many gatherings that have been held to launch the campaign in parishes throughout the diocese, the bishop has expressed gratitude for the incredible generosity and commitment of Catholics, particularly those who have already stepped forward with significant leadership gifts. Now it's up to everyone else to join the campaign and give according to their means.

In coming weeks, people from parishes throughout the diocese will be asked to make a pledge. It's an opportunity to send a strong message of caring for the poor, the elderly, the most vulnerable among us—and for all of us who are sustained and nourished by the life of the Church. There is no substitute or stand-in for giving. "In the end, Christ asks each of us to stand with him, and no one can do that for us," said the bishop.

## Diocese on the move...

After much hard work, prayer and planning, many new initiatives are underway to transform the life of the diocese and bring lasting change to parishes. In this issue alone we learn of plans for an Adoration Chapel set to be built in front of St. John Fisher Seminary in Stamford, the newly formed Priest Confraternity that is focusing on adoration and reparation, and the proposed St. Edmund Campion Discernment Program for professional men who are discerning a call to the priesthood. Likewise, the face to face "Formation Gatherings" now underway throughout the diocese have brought hundreds of parish ministers together to be introduced to the new norms governing liturgical ministries. At the same time applications are now available for the Bishop's Scholarship Fund and the John Paul II Fund for Religious Education and Youth Ministry. Both programs empower laity and support their leadership role in the Church. There is also much innovation in education, particularly the new facilities and other changes underway at Trinity Catholic High School in Stamford. At a time of crisis and challenge in the Church, there is much good news, optimism and hope. Blessed by the bishop's leadership, the sacrificial witness of our priests, and the deep faith, talent and generosity of the laity, the diocese is moving forward in renewal.

## Young People and Hope

Many thanks to the diocesan delegation, including our seminarians, who recently journeyed to Panama for World Youth Day. Bishop Frank J. Caggiano joined them on the pilgrimage and wrote this in his social media post: "I marvel at the fact that many of the young people I have met, including our own delegation, are filled with a true sense of 'sober enthusiasm.' I call it 'sober' insofar as our young people are very much aware of the challenges that the Church is facing, especially as it works to address the sin of the past abuse of young people, while at the same time seeking ways to help those who were victimized to heal. However, our young people remain enthusiastic for their Catholic faith and in their love for Christ, the Church and their desire to be bear witness to the Gospel. As such, I am more confident than ever that many of these young people will leave Panama ready to serve as missionaries of the Lord among their peers and wherever they may go."

## EDITOR'S CHOICE

## St. Augustine Campus boasts three winners in Fairfield University/CT Post essay contest

BRIDGEPORT—Earlier this year, Bridgeport middle school-aged students were invited by Fairfield University's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebration Committee to write an essay of

ning essay reads, "I am just a 13-year-old girl with hopes and dreams. I go to school and study hard. I want to get a good education. I want a chance like everyone else. I want to finish

dinner at Fairfield University on Wednesday, January 30, and they also were asked to attend the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Youth Leadership Academy the following day at Fairfield University's



MLK ESSAY CONTEST WINNER—(l-r) Sierra Dufane, Honorable Mention; Mariela Aca, Second Place Winner; Brendy Xochicale, Honorable Mention

500 words or less on the topic: "As we embrace the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., how would you act to address and eliminate a problem caused by racism, injustice and/or inequality within your own community?"

The Celebration Committee announced that Mariela Aca, a student from Ann Marie Donnelly's 8th grade class at the St. Augustine campus of the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport, won second prize in the 2019 Fairfield University/CT Post Essay Contest. Two other students in Donnelly's class, Sierra Dufane and Brendy Xochicale, won honorable mentions.

An excerpt from Aca's win-

ning essay reads, "I am just a 13-year-old girl with hopes and dreams. I go to school and study hard. I want to get a good education. I want a chance like everyone else. I want to finish

high school and get into a good college. A chance to become a nurse or teacher. Not everything that you hear about Mexican immigrants is true."

Aca feels strongly that people need to stop these assumptions. "I can start by preventing some myself...I can abstain from making jokes about stereotypes. When I hear others teasing or bullying someone based on their race, nationality or skin color, I can stick up for them."

As the Second Prize winner, Aca will receive \$150 and her essay will be recognized in the Connecticut Post in late January or early February. All three students were invited to a celebration

Barone Campus Center.

The Catholic Academy of Bridgeport has four campuses in the city of Bridgeport: St. Andrew, St. Ann, St. Augustine and St. Raphael. The comprehensive academic curriculum and nurturing environment strives to help all children in Pre-K through eighth grade develop their God-given gifts to reach their fullest potential. The Academy educates 900 children of diverse faiths and ethnicities, and educates the whole child: body, mind and spirit. Tuition is reasonable and financial aid and scholarships are available to those who qualify.

(For more information, call: 203.362.2978.)

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# Editorial



## Finding beauty in every season

### A YOUNG WOMAN'S VOICE

BY ELIZABETH CLYONS

*Libby Clyons is Communications Associate for the Diocese of Bridgeport. She can be reached at [elizabeth.clyons@diobpt.org](mailto:elizabeth.clyons@diobpt.org).*

My dad and I started a garden this past spring. We were very novice gardeners, buying only a few vegetable plants in order to test our skill before springing for the more serious seeds.

"We'll do better next year," my dad joked, as we looked at the fruits of our labors, which only yielded a couple of small green peppers and a handful of tomatoes.

Our garden now sits under a blanket of snow and ice and I'm

beginning to wonder if we'll ever get to break ground, turn over the soil and begin anew.

In the dredges of winter, I am often tempted to look out and become saddened at the stark barrenness of the landscape. I long for the beauty of spring and summer—the sun, the green grass, the blooming of life all around.

But just as it is with the seasons of our lives, God uses these times for growth. The land underneath needs rest, as do the animals and birds, as do we.

There are times when our hearts need to be covered in a fresh blanket of snow, as we lie in wait, in preparation for the next season to come. Seasons that seem dark and void of life need to occur, for it is often during these times that we learn to lean on God more, that we discover our own strength, that we learn to practice gratefulness.

My dad and I did all the necessary work that was required to keep our garden healthy during the growing season. We chose good soil, we weeded and watered. And then we waited.

We do all the necessary work in our lives. We go to work, we pay our bills, we go to Mass. And then we wait for the fruits of our labors to burst forth.

Some growing seasons are better than others. Sometimes we're left thinking, "we'll do better next year," and sometimes we can hardly carry all the good things we've grown.

Whether in seasons of insufficiency or seasons of abundance, something is always growing.

I am tempted to look at this current season through the lens

of waiting for the next one, waiting for the sun to break through to thaw the ground beneath. But there is so much beauty here. I am reminded of this when I

look at the freshly fallen snow, settle down with a steaming hot cup of tea in the evening or through witnessing my family rallying around my dad in support, prayer and love after receiving a challenging diagnosis.

"Waiting in a time of sorrow or suffering can be one of the most difficult but also the most

fruitful times of life. We step close to the way of Jesus when we step into our own pain and the pain of others. Often we are thrust into suffering; we are

handed over to it" (Henri Nouwen, *Discernment*).

Right now it may seem as if the ground will never thaw and our grand plans for next year's garden and all the fruit it will

bear seem a long way off.

But instead of looking out and longing for another season, being present in the current one could bear more lasting fruit in the long-run.

As we read in Ecclesiastes, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1). ■

**"Waiting in a time of sorrow or suffering can be one of the most difficult but also the most fruitful times of life."**



## Shake the hand that shook the hand

### A DAD'S VIEW

BY MATTHEW HENNESSEY

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

We're having some work done on the roof of the new house. The chimney is twisted and needs to be rebuilt. Friends gave us the number of a guy we could call to fix it.

McNulty is from Ireland. He told me he did "finishing work" for Guinness. I know what Guinness is. What finishing work is I have no idea. McNulty came one windy weekend to asses the chimney's twist. We stood together in the driveway, eyes on the sky. We both saw the problem but McNulty saw what I couldn't: How to fix it.

I only know how to fix sentences.

The meeting took five or ten minutes. "It's no good Matchoo," he said, pronouncing my name in what I took to be Dublinese. "You don't want one of them

bricks coming loose and falling down into the driveway while the kids are playing and all." We agreed that

was something I did not want. "I'll talk to my brick man—Billy from Kildare—and we'll get you sorted straight away."

We shook hands on the

sidewalk and parted ways. As I watched him leave I thought, "My goodness my hands are an embarrassment."

McNulty is a slightly built man but his hands were like cinderblocks wrapped in sandpaper. Shaking my hand must have felt, to him, like meeting a man-size chinchilla with opposable thumbs. I am inadequate in the hands department.

Pinkish, uncalloused, and prone to cracking in winter, mine are the hands of man who has only ever worked indoors. My palms are like pillows; my fingers like sausage links. Ever see a tree

**"We see Jesus sad-eyed at the Last Supper. We see his thin, broken body on the cross, his hands bloodied by the nails, his lean torso twisted."**

that has grown around a chain-link fence? That's what my wedding ring looks like.

Years ago I worked in bars. I sliced lemons with sharp knives.

I tossed around kegs and dunked pint glasses in scalding hot water. The enemy then was small nicks and cuts, which were annoying and could let in bacteria that could get me sick and unable to work. No one wants a drink served by a bartender with a scabby hand or a runny nose. I used lotion and other manly emollients to care for my hands.

These days my hands do nothing more dangerous than hunting and pecking. My desk is ergonomic. My keyboard has a wrist rest. I still get little nicks and cuts, but mostly from the sharp corners of Post-it notes. I have one callous—on the tip of the finger that does my most aggressive deleting.

When I was a kid the joke was that plumbers made more than guys who worked in offices. Now I hear you can make a good living as a welder. My hope for my sons is that they have manlier hands than I do. Maybe I'll send them to welder's college.

Jesus was a carpenter's son. Some scholars say the Greek word tekton, usually translated as "carpenter," really means "build-

er." It's possible that Joseph was actually more of a stone mason. Either way, if Jesus worked alongside his father, his hands must have been rough. Like McNulty's, not like mine.

Jesus swung a hammer. He knew his way around a workbench and a toolkit. He was fit for a job using chisels. So many familiar images of Our Lord convey a different vibe. Arms outstretched and surrounded by divine light, the Jesus of our time is a softie. We see him in hippy robes, cuddling a lamb. He hammers out justice, not stone blocks.

We see Jesus sad-eyed at the Last Supper. We see his thin, broken body on the cross, his hands bloodied by the nails, his lean torso twisted. But Jesus was a working man. Yes, the message of his public ministry was mercy, but his day job was building houses.

Wouldn't it be nice to see an icon of Our Lord that makes him look like what he was? Some artist should render his misshapen fingernails and tough, calloused palms. If he needs a model, I can give him McNulty's number. ■

# Youth News

## Bishop's Scholarship Fund applications open

By **THERESA SCIALLO**

BRIDGEPORT—Foundations in Education is pleased to announce that applications to the Bishop's Scholarship Fund open February 1, 2019!

The mission of the Bishop's Scholarship Fund is to help families afford a Catholic education at diocesan elementary schools in Fairfield County.

In the 2018-2019 academic year, the Bishop's Scholarship Fund received more than 2,500 applications for tuition assistance and awarded over \$2,500,000 to 1,380 students in Kindergarten through Grade-8. Awards ranged from \$500-\$3,000 per student.

A composite of this past year's average Bishop's Scholarship Fund recipients includes:

- 46 percent raised by single parents
- 53 percent qualify for free or reduced lunch
- average household adjusted gross income = \$54,990

"We encourage all families who need financial assistance to apply. Consideration may be



THE MISSION of the Bishop's Scholarship Fund is to help families afford a Catholic education at diocesan elementary schools in Fairfield County.

given to families with multiple elementary school-aged children," remarked Foundations in Education Executive Director Holly Doherty-Lemoine.

Applicants apply online via the FACTS Grant and Aid application and complete all questions relative to Bishop's Scholarship Fund. The deadline to apply is March 15, 2019 for families with a child currently enrolled in K-8 at any of our diocesan schools

and April 15, 2019 for families new to our schools.

Elementary school principals, admissions directors, bookkeepers and tuition assistance committee members recently joined the Bishop's Scholarship Fund Committee for an information session to discuss the upcoming 2019-2020 application process and so as to assure a smooth process for our school families.

Denise Vuoso, director of admissions at All Saints Catholic School in Norwalk, found the meeting informative. "I came away from the meeting with the knowledge necessary to help current and prospective families

understand the process."

Foundations in Education is a non-profit initiative created to assist the Diocese of Bridgeport's ongoing mission to support Catholic education in Fairfield County. Foundations in Education raises money to provide tuition assistance to families in need, innovation and leadership grants for the professional development of teachers and other education-based initiatives.

(To learn more or to learn how your gift can help transform the lives of students, please visit the Foundations in Education website at: [www.foundationsineducation.org](http://www.foundationsineducation.org).)

## Young people rally at World Youth Day Panama

PANAMA CITY—On the morning of January 21, 20 pilgrims from the Diocese of Bridgeport arrived in Panama City with Bishop Frank J. Caggiano for World Youth Day. After taking a tour of the Panama Canal and the old city, pilgrims settled into their accommodations and prepared for the week.

After their arrival, each morning began with morning prayer and a brief meeting. On Tuesday, pilgrims explored the city and then gathered with thousands of pilgrims from around the world for the opening ceremonies and Mass with the Archbishop of Panama at Cinto Costera.

On Wednesday, pilgrims attended one of the English catechesis sessions with Bishop Caggiano, who spoke about the first part of the world youth day theme "Here I am Lord." He said that Jesus didn't call the apostles friends until the Last Supper and we are now called His friends too, so we must also respond to His call to do His will.

On Wednesday afternoon and evening, pilgrims attended the Fiat Festival at the Figali Convention Center. It was sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, FOCUS and the USCCB. Bishop Caggiano, Bishop Burns of Dallas, Bishop



WORLD YOUTH DAY—Bishop Caggiano gathers with youth from the Diocese of Bridgeport while attending World Youth Day in Panama this January, 2019.

Barron of LA and Sister Bethany Madonna, SV spoke. 10,000 English speaking pilgrims were gathered for praise, worship and adoration.

On Thursday, Bishop Caggiano celebrated Mass for the contingent from the Diocese of Bridgeport and led them in reflection and discussion before going to Cinto Costera for the Pope's welcoming address.

The Pope encouraged all the young people gathered that the Church is walking with them.

"We come from different cultures and peoples, we speak different languages and we wear different clothes. Each of our peoples has had a different history and lived through different situations. We are different in so many ways! But none of it has

stopped us from meeting one another and rejoicing to be together. The reason for this, we know, is that something unites us," the Pope said.

He continued, "We can ask: What keeps us united? Why are we united? What prompts us to encounter each other? The certainty of knowing that we have been loved with a profound love that we neither can nor want to keep quiet, about a love that challenges us to respond in the same way: with love. It is the love of Christ that urges us on (cf. 2 Cor 5:14)."

During the rest of their time in Panama, pilgrims attended stations of the cross and an evening vigil with the Pope while enjoying all the beauty Panama has to offer!

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# His faith moves him to work for future generations

By JOE PISANI

Brian Young still recalls a discussion he had with his daughter Sarah about dating, a topic that he, like most fathers, generally tried to avoid.

"My daughter always had lots of dates and she was very social, and I kind of tuned out the boy-friends," Brian said. "Until the day she told me, 'I'm dating this guy Casey, and I'm interested in him—and I think you might like to meet him.'"

With that, Sarah presented her case: Casey was a good golfer. (Brian is too.) Casey was a Patriots' fan. (As a native of the Boston area, let's just say Brian is a very happy man after Super Bowl LII.) Finally, Sarah informed him, "He's a practicing Catholic."

Brian's response? "Ohh, we may have a winner."

As he says, "That is very hard to find, so when you find it, it's a complete blessing."

As co-chair of the "We Stand With Christ" capital campaign with Father Reggie Norman, pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Brian understands the importance of renewing and strengthening the Church for future generations. And when he thinks of "future generations," what comes to mind for him and his wife Anne are their three grandchildren, six, four and two, whose parents are Sarah and Casey Kilcullen.

"I'm very honored to be asked to chair the campaign with Father Reggie," he says. "It is great working with people going in the same direction and for the same purpose, trying to do something that is enduring. This is an investment by our generation to really establish the Catholic faith in the Diocese of Bridgeport for the



BRIAN YOUNG AND WIFE ANNE received papal honors from Pope Francis during a ceremony at St. Augustine Cathedral last year.

next generation. Our forefathers built the churches and established what we have in terms of schools and programs, and we've gone through a period when maybe we haven't invested as much in things. Now, they need to be nurtured and maintained for the future."

The \$75 million campaign has already raised more than \$56 million from Leadership Gifts and ten parishes that participated in the pilot program, making it already the largest and most successful campaign in the 64-year history of the diocese.

The "We Stand With Christ" campaign is led by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano and a 26-member executive committee with the support of priests, deacons, religious and lay leaders, whose co-chairs are Brian Young of New Canaan and Father Norman.

With the public launch of the

campaign, parishioners throughout the diocese are being asked to make a pledge that will benefit the long-term needs of the parishes and essential diocesan ministries.

"I am asking people of faith to join with me in this generational challenge of taking a great leap forward in the evangelical and spiritual renewal of the diocese," Bishop Caggiano said. "We have accomplished much in the past five years, but there is much more to do. These are challenging times in the Church and our larger society. Now is the time to accompany each other and all those in need in our spiritual jour-

ney and plan for the future."

With a goal of strengthening parishes, the campaign will designate 50 percent of the funds raised, an estimated \$37.5 million, for parish needs. The remaining 50 percent will be invested in three major foundations: Foundations in Education (\$12.5 million), Foundations in Faith (\$15 million), and Foundations in Charity (\$10 million).

Brian, who co-founded the private equity firm EOS in 1994, previously was a general partner and co-head of the private investment business at Odyssey Partners, L.P., a position he

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

## Building up the Mystical Body of Christ

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

BRIDGEPORT—"I'm asking everyone to be part of it. We can't just rely on a few. Everyone's gift, whether large or small, can make a difference as we build up the Mystical Body of Christ," said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano at the leadership gathering to launch the "We Stand with Christ" capital campaign in Bridgeport parishes.

The bishop said that full participation is personally important to him because the campaign reflects the entire diocesan family looking after one another, and it will only be a spiritual success if all Catholics across the diocese participate at whatever level they can.

"If we're one family, we're all responsible for each other, and

everyone in the family has a job to do," he told the more than 100 parish leaders from 11 Bridgeport parishes and St. Margaret Shrine, who turned out for the event held recently in the Queen of Saints Hall of the Catholic Center.

Similar receptions have been held across the diocese over several months to formally begin the public portion of the \$75 million campaign, discuss diocesan and parish goals, and encourage all to participate in the campaign for the future.

The bishop announced that the capital campaign has already raised more than \$55 million based on the response of the 14 pilot parishes and other leadership gifts.

In his candid introductory remarks followed by a far-reaching question and answer session with the gathering, the bishop

said that he was grateful and encouraged by the campaign's strong start in the face of concern over the impact of the abuse crisis and the need for change within the Church.

"I am here to tell you that I, as a bishop, will do everything that is humanly possible to heal and purify the Church," he said, thanking people for their faithfulness and generosity. "But we must remember that the abuse crisis, as difficult as it is, does not define who we are. Our mission endures in a time of challenge. Twenty one centuries later we are still called to stand with Christ."

After the audience viewed the "We Stand with Christ" capital campaign video, the bishop spoke about the very first image,

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



# We Stand with Christ

## Critical to the future of the diocese

### Foundations in Faith

“The success of Foundations in Faith is critical to the future of our diocese,” said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, when he launched the new foundation last month.

Foundations in Faith, the successor to Faith in the Future, is a nonprofit 501(c)3 created to assist the Diocese of Bridgeport’s ongoing pastoral mission. The foundation awards grants and distributions to support programs in religious education, evangelization, support for priests and deacons, seminarians and special needs ministries.

Kelly Weldon, parishioner of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Wilton, is serving as the

### Pastoral Ministries At-A-Glance

In January 2017 The Leadership Institute was officially launched. More than 1,800 attended various Leadership Institute events (Formation Days, Convocations, Book Clubs, Workshops, Marriage Enrichment, Lecture Series, Days of Reflection and Pilgrimages).

**1,100** copies of the Catechetical Task Force Report, An Invitation to Lifelong Formation, distributed.

**128** registered users in beta testing of Leadership Institute online learning portal.

**1,000,000** prayers sent through The Face of Prayer.

**1,500** pilgrims in more than 30 buses traveled to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in September 2017.

**2,400** respondents to the TellBishopFrank Youth Survey.

**23** senior priests live in a dignified retirement at the Catherine Denis Keefe Queen of the Clergy Residence in Stamford.

**29** men are in training for ordination to priesthood in our Diocese. Tuition, room, and board in the seminary is approximately \$50,000 a year for each seminarian.

**10** men are in training for ordination to the Permanent Diaconate program.

**158** children and adults with disabilities are educated at St. Catherine Center for Special Needs.

More than **5,000** Parish Liturgical Ministers are attending Leadership Institute formation gatherings.

## FOUNDATIONS IN FAITH SUPPORTING PASTORAL MINISTRIES

www.foundationsinfaith.org

Foundations in Faith is committed to supporting and transforming pastoral ministries in the Diocese of Bridgeport by fostering a spirit of accompaniment and encounter in our Church, providing grants for innovators in our parishes, and funding key pastoral ministries ranging from Evangelization, Religious and Special Education, priestly formation and support, and beyond.

Along with Foundations in Education and Foundations in Charity, the new Foundations in Faith is made possible through contributions to the “We Stand with Christ” capital campaign, which is seeking to fund innovations and meet future needs in the key diocesan ministries of education, faith formation, and charitable service. Each foundation will have multiple funds within it to support the mission.

assistant to Bishop Caggiano, who is serving as Acting Chairperson. Foundations in Faith also has an independent lay board that is both dedicated to the mission of the Foundation and committed to shepherding the funds entrusted to them to serve the pastoral needs of the diocese including parish pastoral needs, support for the formation of priests and retired clergy.

Pastors, youth ministers, directors and coordinators of religious education have now been invited (see ad on page 2) to apply for the Saint John Paul II fund for religious education and youth ministry—one of the major initiatives of the new Foundations in Faith. Grant awards will range between \$2,000 and \$10,000. Applications have gone out will and are due back on April 1, 2019. The funding decisions will be made in June and those who are awarded grants will receive funding in August.

(For more information contact Kelly Weldon at [Kelly.weldon@diobpt.org](mailto:Kelly.weldon@diobpt.org) and for details visit [www.foundationsinfaith.org](http://www.foundationsinfaith.org).)





# ‘We Stand With Christ’ Video Campaign Shares Testimonies of Faith

By **BRIAN D. WALLACE**

BRIDGEPORT—The diocese has launched a video series to support the “We Stand with Christ” Capital Campaign that was publicly announced in January.

Beginning with the release of the video, “We Stand with Children,” Catholics throughout the diocese will be seen on camera delivering both personal and powerful testimonies of their faith experience and commitment to “Stand with Christ” by standing alongside those in need in the diocese.

The \$75 million “We Stand With Christ” campaign is designed to continue the work of renewal and strengthen the Church for future generations. In addition to supporting parishes throughout the diocese, the campaign will also fund foundations in education, charity and faith.

“We stand with Christ when we stand with our neighbor, whoever that neighbor may be, in whatever need they may have,” says Bishop Frank J. Caggiano in a video announcing the new video series. “We feed Christ, we clothe Christ, we visit Christ, we

are with Christ in his moments of sickness and suffering precisely when we stand with our neighbor, who together form his presence in the world.”

The bishop said he is deeply grateful to the men and women who have appeared in the video and to all those who have already participated in the campaign.

“You and I will have the opportunity to hear some beautiful and powerful testimonies from our own sisters and brothers, with whom we have stood in their time of need, loving them and by loving them, loving Christ. I invite you to watch these vignettes and allow them to speak to your heart, as they have spoken to my heart.”

The bishop also directly challenges people to give sacrificially and take responsibility for each other by participating in the campaign.

“As this campaign moves forward, you and I are going to be asked to make a choice, with whom shall we stand? Let us together stand with the Lord, by standing with our neighbor, one person at a time.”

The series of 24, 90-second

videos will accompany the capital campaign through the month of June. The first group of videos was filmed at St. Augustine Cathedral in Bridgeport, which provides a dramatic and sacred backdrop to the testimony of the speakers.

Filmmaker Brian Russell of Fairfield, who directed the “We Stand with Christ” Capital Campaign launch video, is producing the vignettes. The remaining videos will be shot in locations across Fairfield County.

“Participating in the filming has been humbling and inspiring,” said John Grosso, director of digital media for the diocese. “It is an honor and privilege to record the faithful witness of so many men and women who live their faith and stand with Christ by standing with their neighbor,” said Grosso, who is coordinating the series.

Grosso said that upcoming videos including comments on standing with the aged, the abused and the vulnerable, will include a speaker sharing a bit about his or her own story, the ministry or program they support and what it means for the diocese to “stand” with them. Bishop Caggiano will also reflect on each



video in his upcoming social media posts.

The vignettes are part of a Communications campaign to share how we can stand with Christ, our Church in Bridgeport, and with each other. They are posted every Thursday on Bishop Caggiano’s Facebook and every Saturday on the Diocese of Bridgeport’s Facebook.

The “We Stand with Christ” Capital Campaign has already raised almost \$50 million from Leadership Gifts and ten parishes that have participated in the pilot program, making it the largest and most successful campaign in the 64-year history of the diocese. Throughout the coming months, people throughout the diocese will be asked to make their pledge to the campaign.

With its objective of strengthening local parishes to encourage a vibrant Catholic life, the campaign will designate 50 percent of the funds raised, an estimated \$37.5 million, for parish needs.

The remaining 50 percent will be invested in three major foundations: Foundations in Education (\$12.5 million), Foundations in Faith (\$15 million), and Foundations in Charity (\$10 million). Each of the Foundations has its own board of directors.

*(For more information on the “We Stand with Christ” campaign for the diocese, call 203.648.9050. Visit the web at [www.WeStandWithChrist.org](http://www.WeStandWithChrist.org). Give online at: [www.givecentral.org/wswc](http://www.givecentral.org/wswc). To watch the We Stand with Christ videos: [www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLoLPXluXSvScasA5h1KMsumppQkTS-0Kn](http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLoLPXluXSvScasA5h1KMsumppQkTS-0Kn).)*

## The Challenge:

The Faith in the Future Fund was created in 1995. This fund has two primary goals: to advance the diocese’s education efforts in both Catholic schools and faith formation programs, and to provide critical funds to support ministries charged with the care of priests, seminarians, youth, the aged, and the sick.

## The Opportunity:

Ensuring the vitality of our church demands immediate and ongoing investments. In our parish ministries, we must increase our evangelization efforts to deepen participation in parish life. Forming young people committed to Christ requires the reimagining of faith formation and the expansion of youth ministry programs. Our seminary must continue to educate

# Enhancing Pastoral Ministries \$15 Million

and form men for the priesthood, and the church must maintain our commitment to provide for the needs of our retired priests. In our community, we must continue to show God’s love to those with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and meet the spiritual needs of the elderly living in nursing homes.

## The Solution:

Endowed and current-use funds totaling \$15,000,000 invested in Foundations in Faith will empower the Church in Fairfield County to support its varied pastoral ministries:

- **Saint John Paul II Fund for**

- **Religious Education and Youth Ministry**—additional endowed funds will be added to this new permanently restricted endowment to financially support the work of lifelong faith formation and youth and young adult ministry throughout the Diocese of Bridgeport.

- **St. John Vianney Retired Priest Fund**—provide a long-term source of funding to meet the care needs of retired priests who have faithfully served the people of God in the Diocese of Bridgeport.

- **The St. Charles Borromeo**

- **Seminary Fund**—endowed funds will provide a long-term source of funding to help support the cost of educating and forming young men for the Catholic priesthood.

- **The Lourdes Pastoral Care Fund**—additional resources will be provided to the existing current-use fund to ensure that the diocese has the resources necessary to meet the growing need for pastoral care services at St. Joseph Center, St. Camillus Center and, St. John Paul II Center.

- **The Saint Therese Fund for Evangelization**—endowed

funds will ensure grant money is available to increase participation in parish life and support the ongoing evangelization efforts on both the parish and diocesan level.

- **St. Catherine Center for Special Needs Fund**—Supporting programs such as St. Catherine Center for Special Needs which provides unified pastoral and educational support for individuals with disabilities, and serves as a centralized resource for the Diocesan community. Through direct service at Saint Catherine Academy or the Adult Day Program, and support in the parishes or Catholic Schools for faith formation, The Center strives to foster the educational, spiritual and social well-being of people with disabilities.



## ‘We Stand With Christ’



Every day, in big and small ways, God’s love is made manifest in our local parish and school communities in the Diocese of Bridgeport. In our pews, church halls, soup kitchens, classrooms and pastoral ministries we are transforming lives through the experience of Christ’s presence. Recognizing all that we do today, we must also reflect on how we as a community of faith can increase and expand the ways in which we live out the Gospel, now and in the future. A

vibrant Church relies on healthy parishes along with dynamic ministries, increased evangelization, superior Catholic schools and robust charitable programs and agencies.

The “We Stand With Christ” Campaign will address significant priorities and help prepare the Church to meet the challenges and opportunities we face now and for decades to come. The objectives of “We Stand With Christ” are:

- Strengthening local parishes to encourage a vibrant Catholic life;
- Ensuring the vigor of Catholic education;
- Enriching religious education, faith formation and youth ministries;
- Providing for the future care of retired priests;
- Educating young men for the priesthood;
- Meeting the pastoral needs of the elderly in nursing homes;
- Supporting those with intellectual and developmental disabilities;
- Increasing participation in parish life and fostering evangelization; and

- Expanding works of charity for the poor and disenfranchised.

While a small number of targeted leadership commitments (\$250,000+) will be directed to current use purposes in support of these objectives, the vast majority of these monies will be placed in endowments to provide a sustainable source of income. These funds—which will be raised by We Stand With Christ, Inc., a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit corporation separate from the Diocese of Bridgeport—will be overseen by a board of directors charged with ensuring the funds are used for their intended purpose.

Recognizing the need to invest in our parishes, 50 percent of the funds raised or \$37,500,000, will be for parish needs.

The remaining 50 percent of the funds raised will be invested in the following three Foundations:

- Foundations in Education \$12,500,000
- Foundations in Faith \$15,000,000
- Foundations in Charity \$10,000,000

==== FUTURE GENERATIONS FROM PAGE 13 =====

held since 1986. Before that, he was a managing director of First Boston Corp., where he was instrumental in building the Mergers and Acquisitions Group and headed the leveraged buyout department. He graduated from Harvard in 1976 with a degree in philosophy.

A member of St. Thomas More Church in Darien and a trustee since 2002, Brian says, “Our Catholic faith is the best chance our children have for a full, grounded, complete and happy life. I am trying to take my experience in the financial world and apply it in a way that can help the Church in Fairfield County. I am extremely impressed with Bishop Caggiano, not only as a fantastic faith leader but as one with a remarkable head for business and strategic planning.”

The campaign is the result of the fourth diocesan synod and the pastoral planning process that followed, which Brian said, confirmed the need to address education, charitable and pastoral and parish priorities.

“The synod really forced the strategic planning process down to every parish, every school and every ministry. Overlaid on top of that was a thoughtful exercise to bring financial resources that would support the plans and programs,” he said.

A strong faith is foundational to Brian and his family. During a ceremony at St. Augustine Cathedral last year, he and Anne received papal honors from Pope Francis and were inducted into the Order of Pope Saint Sylvester, which was instituted in 1841 by Pope Pius X to recognize members of the laity who are actively involved in the life of the Church, particularly in their professional duties.

Brian met Anne, an art history major, at Harvard during his senior year. As he recalls, “I met her at a party and went home and told my roommates, ‘I just met the girl I’m going to marry.’” They are the parents of three adult children, Jason, Sarah and Matthew.

“One way I measure a family is if the kids love being together, and our family is happiest when we are all together,” he says. One of their closest friends is Father Paul Murphy, pastor of St. Thomas More parish in Darien, which they joined in 1981 when they moved to Connecticut.

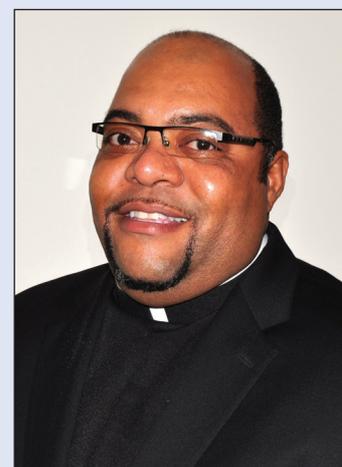
“Father has done every baptism for our grandkids and is an important part of our life,” Brian says. “We just felt very early on that faith was an essential part of keeping our family grounded and happy. And we continue to feel that way.”

His love of his grandchildren often comes to mind when Brian talks about the “We Stand With Christ” campaign.

“This is not an opportunistic ‘let’s just raise money’ campaign,” he says. “This campaign is the fulfillment of the bishop’s vision of how to put the diocese on a sound footing for the next generation. When you talk about a sound footing and foundation, you have to have plans, you have to be thoughtful about all your ministries, and you have to create confidence among all the people.”

“Our grandkids are really lucky,” he says. “We have a team effort. We’re keeping them grounded in the faith, and they will be better for it. And I want to figure out a way to have as many people as possible have that same opportunity.”

To him, “We Stand With Christ” will provide that opportunity. ■



FATHER REGINALD NORMAN, co-chairing with Brian Young.

==== MYSTICAL BODY OF CHRIST FROM PAGE 13 =====

which shows him processing through the streets of downtown Bridgeport with hundreds of young people behind him.

The bishop and the young men and women walked from St. Augustine Cathedral to Webster Bank Arena on September 19, 2015 for the Synod Closing Mass. He said he remembered the moment well and it has motivated him to work for renewal.

“When I looked back and saw all the young with their dreams and hopes, I said to myself, if we’re going to do this, now is the time. We need the resources to make huge leap forward. It is done only once in a generation.”

The bishop said the “We Stand with Christ” capital campaign is rooted deeply in the work of the synod in which people throughout the diocese “spent a year discerning needs” and also building a wish list of the programs and ministries to help lead the reform and renewal.

In particular they wanted a diocese that engaged young

people, re-evangelized Catholics who had left the Church, and re-imagined catechesis and faith formation to meet the challenges of a new age.

The bishop said the campaign is structured in a way that none of the money goes to the diocese. Funds will be directed toward parish needs and three newly created foundations in Faith, Education and Charity, which encompass the major ministries of the Church.

He said the foundation will be guided by lay leaders and that in perpetuity the funds can only be used for the purposes for which they’ve been donated.

On the parish level, each pastor along with parish leaders have developed a case statement for their own projects. The bishop said that in addition to new ministries, many of the projects defined by parishes involve ongoing deferred maintenance such as roofs and furnaces, new construction and other areas that parishes have lacked funding to address.

When asked for the difference between the Annual Catholic

Appeal and the Capital Campaign, the bishop said that the ACA enables the diocese to sustain existing services and pays for the yearly expenses of the diocese, while the capital campaign is raising funds that will support the transformation of the diocese and future programs.

This year the 14 parishes who participated in the pilot will once again return to giving to the annual appeal, which has a reduced goal. The parishes who are now participating in the capital campaign will resume their annual appeal giving next year.

Parishes that participated in the Leadership Gathering include The Cathedral Parish, Saint Charles Borromeo Parish, Saint Andrew Parish, Saint Ann Parish, Saint Mary Parish, Saint Michael the Archangel Parish, Saint Peter Parish, Blessed Sacrament Parish, Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Saint George Parish and Saints Cyril and Methodius Parish.

(For more information visit the “We Stand with Christ” website: [www.westandwithchrist.org](http://www.westandwithchrist.org).) ■

# Men's Discernment

## St. Edmund Campion Program

STAMFORD—The Diocese of Bridgeport has announced plans for the St. Edmund Campion Program of Discernment at St. John Fisher Seminary in Stamford.

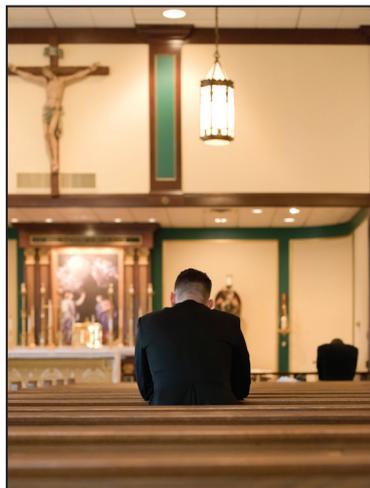
The new program will accompany men, 18 and older, in encountering Christ and in discerning whether they have a calling to enter fulltime seminary formation.

"The strength and appeal of the program is its flexibility in meeting a Catholic man wherever he may be in his journey to and with the Lord," said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano. "The time in the residence program will give men who are drawn to a vocation the opportunity to deepening of the spiritual life and growth in self-knowledge, while they discern the question, 'What does Jesus Christ ask of me?'"

The men in the discernment program will reside on the first floor of St. John Fisher Seminary, where they will have a separate lounge to socialize. College seminarians and pre-theologians will live on the second floor. Each participant will have a house job to help maintain the common spaces of the program residence.

Father Paul Check, rector of St. John Fisher, said that for the men in the resident program, this discernment takes place within a community built upon fraternal charity, prayer and the sacraments.

"Two indispensable aids will be the presence of the Blessed Sacrament in the man's home and life, and the community of like-minded



men," said Father Check.

Father Check said that to enter, the candidate need not quit his job or change whatever educational degree he is currently pursuing. The program will have two divisions, resident and non-resident.

He said that although the men in the new resident program will live among the seminarians at St. John Fisher, they will not be considered seminarians, nor will they have entered a formal program of philosophy studies or regular formation for priesthood.

"Joining the house of discernment requires a different level of commitment than entering pre-theology or college seminary. Therefore, this option may be attractive to some men who require more assurance before setting aside a career, changing a course of studies, or selling a residence. Nevertheless, all resident program participants will either work fulltime or be fulltime college or university students," said Father Check.

Candidates will be screened by the vocations advisory board. Those accepted will receive an orientation by the program director. The men will also be called on to live a celibate life.

The program commitment calls for daily Mass, preferably at St. John Fisher; personal prayer for 30 minutes daily, preferably before the Blessed Sacrament and one decade of the Rosary.

If a man's schedule allows, he will join the seminarians for communal prayer and dinner at St. John Fisher on Monday through Thursday, or whenever possible. The men will also be asked to observe a house curfew, as well as the seminary technology and media policy.

The men will have a monthly individual meeting with the program director, participate in spiritual direction and regular confession. They will also engage in apostolic or charitable work, as approved by director.

(For more information contact: Rev. Paul N. Check, rector at: St. John Fisher Seminary, 894 Newfield Avenue, Stamford, 06905. By phone at: 203.322.5331, or email at: [frcheck@diobpt.org](mailto:frcheck@diobpt.org).)

## Two Spiritual Opportunities

### at Sacred Heart of Jesus, Danbury

DANBURY—On January 26, Sacred Heart of Jesus in Danbury hosted a study program with a team of facilitators from **ChristLife ministry**, headquartered in Baltimore Md. The program involves the essential work of evangelization to help others encounter Jesus Christ and learn how to become His missionary disciples in the Catholic Church.

Teams from seven parishes gathered at Sacred Heart of Jesus for an all-day training event. All seven went through the first phase, Discovering Christ, with great results and came to learn how to implement Following Christ and Sharing Christ, which are the second and third parts of the ChristLife series. They were taught how to bring this to their parishes and plans to implement the second and third phase are under way. The parishes running ChristLife include Sacred Heart in Danbury, St. Mary in Ridgefield, St. James in Manchester, Holy Family in Fairfield and St. Pius X in Fairfield. This has been a transformative program in the life of these parishes.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish will also be hosting Dan Burke on March 3 from 2-5 pm in the church hall for an event called "**Afternoon of Reflection.**" "Lent is rapidly approaching and I am struck by my need for this season of the Church. We are asked to do something we think we never have time for: slow down and take a journey with and to Jesus in a new and more meaningful way. We will need some time to reflect on where we have been and where Jesus is taking us if we are to do it," says Dan Tome, pastoral administrator of Sacred Heart of Jesus.

This event is free to the public but donations will be accepted at the door to defray travel costs. There will also be light refreshments provided in the hall after the event. "Lent is a beautiful time in the Church to take an honest look at our relationship with God and how we can move forward in that relationship. The time to reflect is crucial to this process," says Tome.

(For more information or to register, visit: [www.avila-institute.org/product/afternoon-of-reflection-danbury-ct-march-3-2019](http://www.avila-institute.org/product/afternoon-of-reflection-danbury-ct-march-3-2019).)



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# Catholic Charities

## Responding to food insecurity in the area

By AMY ZAJAC

BRIDGEPORT—In 2018, Catholic Charities provided 1,322,500 meals and it anticipates that this number will grow in 2019.

However, the recent government shutdown and the added

demand put on food pantries has underscored the growing food insecurity of the poor, elderly and working families.

Al Barber, president of Catholic Charities, reports that the agency's programs have broadened their ability to assist

those in need, particularly during these difficult times.

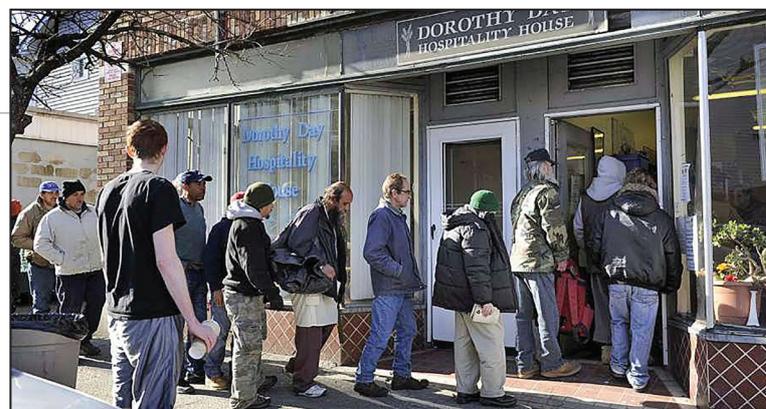
The agency, sponsored by the diocese, has four major food service programs stationed in the core cities of Bridgeport, Stamford and Danbury, through which they feed the hungry, homeless, elderly and homebound.

"Our food service programs are open to those in need. This includes families recently impacted by the Federal government shut down and those coming off of SNAP benefits," Barber said.

Barber said the Thomas Merton Center in Bridgeport and New Covenant Center in Stamford both have soup kitchens open and ready to serve meals, as well as food pantries stocked with fresh produce and non-perishable items.

The Morning Glory Breakfast Program in Danbury provides a hot and healthy breakfast and is a great place to ask help locating other resources."

John Gutman, executive director of New Covenant Center in Stamford, said that while New Covenant Center relies heavily on the assistance of Food Banks to



CATHOLIC CHARITIES broadened their ability to assist those in need during the recent government shutdown. Thomas Merton Center in Bridgeport and New Covenant Center in Stamford both have soup kitchens open and ready to serve meals, as well as food pantries stocked with fresh produce and non-perishable items.

## Behavioral Health provides options...

By ELLEN MCGINNESS

For over 50 years, Catholic Charities of Fairfield County (CCFC) has provided affordable and accessible mental health services to individuals and families from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. The program, called Behavioral Health Services, is one of the only providers of subsidized mental health services in the region.

Since Behavioral Health Services keeps two medical physicians on staff, the program is able to run a medication management group. Therefore, any clients who are prescribed medication by one of the doctors must attend monthly meetings so that a clinician can monitor them and make sure they are taking the medication properly. Having both clinicians and physicians on the staff is impactful for the clients because it provides full circle care.

Another large sector of Behavioral Health Services is individual therapy for adults. Two major areas are treating women who are victims of violence and helping parolees reintegrate into society. The program has a strong nexus with the Women's Center of Danbury, an organization that seeks to end violence against women and children. The Women's Center refers females who are in abusive relationships to CCFC's Behavioral Health Services for treatment. In terms of parolees, the state requires that they attend regular treatment sessions when they are released from prison, which Behavioral Health Services provides.

The program also treats adults with anxiety or depression. This was the case with Brian, who is currently a 24-year-old aspiring medical student. When he was in high school, Brian was bullied and physically abused as well as threatened with a gun by an employer. After being referred to Behavioral Health Services, Brian has been a client for more than three years. His clinician, Jennifer McNamara, is helping him work through the anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder and depression he struggles with due to his childhood experiences. McNamara has been impressed with Brian's commitment to his health saying, "Brian is an enthusiastic participant and will work hard for his recovery."

Every year, CCFC's Behavioral Health Services provides about 15,000 counseling sessions to children and adults. But since about 90 percent of the clients are Medicaid or Medicare recipients, it is always difficult to cover the costs.

Brian, for one, could not be more grateful that Behavioral Health Services exists. "Through my treatment, I have learned so much about myself and what I can do with my life," he explained. "If you need help, you should come to Behavioral Health Services. It has been one of the best experiences of my life."

*(Behavioral Health Services is accredited by the Council on Accreditation and licensed by the Connecticut Department of Public Health and the Department of Children and Families. To learn more about this program, contact Richard Madwid at [rmadwid@ccfc-ct.org](mailto:rmadwid@ccfc-ct.org) or 203.743.4412 ext. 226.)* ■

stock their soup kitchens, when it comes to filling their pantries it is outside donations that are the most helpful.

In Bridgeport, The Thomas Merton Center is entering its 45th year of service. It provides breakfast, lunch and a day shelter to those in need who cannot help themselves.

Catholic Charities also serves the elderly through its Senior Nutrition Program, which provides meals to homebound seniors through their Meals on Wheels program as well as serving meals to the elderly at congregate food sites located in Stamford, Norwalk, Westport and Greenwich.

Combined, the Catholic Charities programs served a total of 96,000 breakfasts, 185,000 lunches, and 74,000 dinners last year. The food pantries located at New

Covenant Center in Stamford and The Thomas Merton Center in Bridgeport welcomed 3,100 individuals to shop in 2018. The Senior Nutrition program delivered 72,500 meals to 180 seniors through its Meals on Wheels service and provided 63,000 lunches at eight senior centers.

"During a time of uncertainty and growing demand for resources, none of this could have been accomplished without the assistance of thousands of volunteers and the generosity of committed donors," said Barber.

*(Anyone interested in learning more about the Food Services of Catholic Charities can visit their website at [www.ccfairfield.org](http://www.ccfairfield.org). New Covenant Center has a website specific to its program at [www.newcovenant-center.org](http://www.newcovenant-center.org) and The Thomas Merton Center's website can be found at [www.themertoncenter.org](http://www.themertoncenter.org).)* ■

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# Catholic Education

## Donors make an impact on students' future

By PAT HENNESSY

Why do people donate to Catholic schools? What values do they bring from their own school years that inform their life choices? What do they hope a strong Catholic foundation will give to youngsters growing up in today's world?

"I've always been committed to Catholic education," says Dr. Julia McNamara. "Growing up in a Catholic environment, the most important thing was God. Instruction was centered in the Catholic spirit. That awareness stayed with me my whole life."

"Catholic schools gave us faith, and with faith you have hope—hope and confidence that whatever comes is in God's hands," says Joe Purcell. "With those came discipline, respect, focus and the sense that you had a higher calling, even though you might not know what it would be."

From very different backgrounds, both McNamara and Purcell have become donors to the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Bridgeport through Foundations in Education, which provides scholarships to help families afford a Catholic school tuition and supports academic innovation and professional development of teachers. Both also volunteered to serve on the Board of Trustees of Foundations in Education.

A native New Yorker, McNamara spent her adult life teaching in Catholic elementary

and high schools, eventually becoming dean of students and later president of Albertus Magnus College in New Haven in 1982, retiring in 2016. Among several positions, she has served on the Board of Directors of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities. She joined the Foundations in Education Board of Trustees in 2015.

In addition to serving on the board, she and her husband, Richard Lolatte, donate regularly to Foundations in Education to assist Catholic education in the Diocese of Bridgeport. "We donate in the amounts that we can," she says. "We live in a world where a charitable dollar can make each school its best self. Any donation can give so much good."

Given her background, she sees the leadership of teachers as central, and chairs the Innovation and Leadership Grants Committee. "Everybody understands that a dollar goes only so far," she says. At the current time the committee is able to grant 58% of requests. "Technology in the classroom is big, everything from computer science to compound light microscopes." Beyond technology, "teachers want to give opportunities for learning in a variety of different ways. Each school has



DR. JULIA MCNAMARA, Chairperson of the Innovation and Leadership committee, is also a donor to Foundations in Education.

different need levels, and we do all of this in a partnership."

The requests are varied. They include a music production lab; establishing a greenhouse in one classroom and oceanography in another; collaborating with Oxford University in Great Britain; and drama outreach—giving students the opportunity to attend a Broadway show and spend time backstage talking to actors and directors.

"One of our most unusual requests was for ukuleles for a music classroom," McNamara recalls. "It sounds strange, but they are lightweight, inexpensive instruments to encourage students to learn to play."

Joe Purcell, who originally hails from Schenectady, N.Y., sees the Catholic schools as a way for students to build a path to a better future. After graduating from Holy Cross College, he spent 10 years of active service in the Navy and 10 years in the reserves. Now in finance, he is co-chair of his firm's Veteran's Network.

He and his wife Lisa are active in St. Luke Parish in Westport, where he is a member of the men's group that meets there every Saturday morning. "I wouldn't be able to do what I do without that support," he says. "Our pastor, Msgr. Andy Varga, has been a constant source of encouragement and friendship."

When a co-worker introduced him to Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, Purcell asked the bishop how he could be most helpful. "The bishop told me, 'Education is one of my key issues,'" he recalls. Guided by the sense of calling instilled by his Catholic schooling, Purcell joined the Foundations in Education board and became a donor to Catholic Schools through the Foundation.

"Catholic education gives students a perspective on the world and gives them the strength and knowledge to deal with it."

Both McNamara and Purcell stress that donations to Foundations in Education of any size help students and ensure a quality Catholic education. "Nobody asks how much you give," McNamara emphasizes, drawing on her own experience in donating.

McNamara concludes, "Catholic education educates the whole person. With our donations, students learn to give positive Christian witness in an atmosphere of respect, meeting the challenges of today's society."

(To learn more about Foundations in Education and how your gift can help transform the lives of Catholic school students, visit Foundations in Education at: [www.foundationsineducation.org](http://www.foundationsineducation.org).)

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# School News

## Trinity Catholic dedicates new facilities

STAMFORD—Trinity Catholic High School marked January 30 as “The Day the Future Began” with an inspired ceremony attended by nearly five hundred students, administrators and invited guests. The entire ceremony was webcast live to alumni nationwide via Facebook Live.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano presided over the one-hour ceremony which included the dedication of new statues and renovated facilities. The statues will grace the grounds and foyer of the newly-renovated school, and the new classrooms, labs, offices and a media center bring a new capability to the sixty-year old institution. The two-year, \$5M renovation project was completed this past month.

Trinity Catholic Head of

School, Patricia “Pat” Brady said: “Trinity is indeed proud of its glorious past. But today, we look to the future and reimagine an even greater impact than ever before.” Board Chair Roger Fox added: “I recalled a quote I once heard: ‘The word go forth from this time and place that the torch has been passed to a new generation.’ That is how I feel today, that the great Trinity torch has been passed to a new generation.”

In a reverent, at times inspiring, ceremony the bishop said of Trinity Catholic and its sister school, the Catholic Academy of Stamford (grades PreK 3 through 8), “this campus, this educational institution, is being reborn to provide the center for education and the faith here in lower Fairfield County”. He then told the students, “We



TRINITY CATHOLIC RENOVATIONS—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano presided over the one-hour ceremony which included the dedication of new statues and renovated facilities. The statues will grace the grounds and foyer of the newly-renovated school, and the new classrooms, labs, offices and a media center bring a new capability to the sixty-year old institution. The two-year, \$5M renovation project was completed this past month.

dedicate our physical facilities today, where you will learn and go out to make a difference in the world. But (he added), it is you as people that are the reason this exists.”

A 40-voice youth choir from the Catholic Academy of Stamford sung sweetly as students alternated readings and prayers. Scenes played on the large video screen in the auditorium as the bishop and representatives made their way around the school blessing the new environs one by one. The event was simulcast on Facebook Live with five cameras placed strategically around the route.

(The entire event can be viewed on the school’s Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/TCHSCrusaders](http://www.facebook.com/TCHSCrusaders), accessible through its website at [www.trinitycatholic.org](http://www.trinitycatholic.org).)

### *A strategy for learning*

## Personalized Learning St. Gregory science

By PAT HENNESSY

DANBURY—Why is it easier to push a shopping cart than a car? Because a shopping cart has less mass (it’s not as heavy), and the less the mass, the easier it is to accelerate. Newton’s second law of motion spells it out: acceleration depends on force divided by mass.

The topic the eighth graders are exploring during a Personalized Learning science class at St. Gregory the Great School in Danbury goes to the very basis of physics. Physicist Isaac Newton formulated three laws in his *Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy*, first published in 1687. Used to explain the motion of physical objects and systems, these laid the foundation for all classical mechanics.

“What is Newton’s second law?” science teacher Christine Fahey asks a small group gathered at one table.

“It’s the relationship between mass and force and acceleration,” comes the quick answer from one student.

“When mass goes up, acceler-



ST. GREGORY THE GREAT students and faculty have embraced the Personalized Learning Initiative with enthusiasm.

ation goes down,” adds another.

The students are deep into exploring this fundamental physical principle, with small groups rotating through several different ways of exploring the concept. At the beginning of the class, Fahey had worked through a variety of problems, solving for force, acceleration and mass. “You have to figure out what you’re looking for, figure out what you’re given and establish an equation,” she explained.

As they put that challenge into practice, one group is watching a video, with pauses along the way to answer imbedded questions. At the end they’ll complete a survey of the material.

A second group reads short comprehension paragraphs followed by questions. “This gives this a reading analysis of the equation,” explains Aidan, who has already completed the video section.

At another station, “Study

Island” drills with straight problems—and the chance to play a video game following correct answers. Answers done perfectly, Sarah has successfully completed her studies and is playing a game called Lunar Rally. “This one is the most fun, because of the games,” she says.

When students are finished at Study Island, they can complete other work or look at a report on gravity, space and the human body published by NASA this year.

“We’ve always used technology here at St. Gregory’s and, especially for science, we’ve always had small groups,” Fahey says. “The diocesan Personalized Learning Initiative has made me focus a little bit more, pay more attention to the different ways students learn.”

The teachers at St. Gregory’s, from the youngest preschool to the eighth grade, have embraced the Personalized Learning Initiative with enthusiasm, says principal Suzanne Curra. “They report that students are way more engaged and, in some cases, their classes are ahead of where they were last year,” she says.

Because the program is so new, teachers meet as a professional learning community on Wednesday morning, every week. “They discuss what the needs are and what they’re finding,” Curra says. “Through discussion, teachers can modify their plans and make them better. That’s the craft of teaching.”

In a small group, Fahey can exercise the craft of teaching as she shows students how to manipulate the law of motion through equations. “What can you do to increase the acceleration?” she asks one group of students. As they change their equations, they can either increase the force or decrease the mass. She checks their worksheets, looking for comprehension, mathematical accuracy and completeness.

During the school year, the eighth graders have been introduced to the scientific method and are now exploring physics, followed by genetics and chemistry. “For each of these topics, each of these stations has a different strategy for learning,” says Fahey. “When they get to high school, they’ll have a solid foundation in science.”

# Foundations in Education

## 2019 Innovation & Leadership Grants

By **THERESA SCIALLO**

“Imagination is the mother of creativity and innovation and the foundation of true leadership,” remarked Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, addressing Catholic school educators recently awarded 2019 grants in innovation and leadership.

“A true leader dares to see within the hearts of students; to unlock what may be hidden to them but obvious to you,” Bishop Caggiano added. “Our young people benefit not only because of your dedication, your professionalism, your knowledge, and your hard work, but because you are women and men of imagination.”

Foundations in Education is pleased to announce 26 grant awards totaling \$125,000 to benefit Catholic schools in the Diocese of Bridgeport. In its 2nd year, this competitive program was the first of its kind to offer innovation and leadership grants to teachers and administrators.

The grant program promotes excellence in Catholic education by supporting a teacher’s creative project and their professional development. Grants funded through this program are intended for transformative initiatives that benefit multiple grade levels and have a long-term impact on student learning.

Educators submitted grant



proposals from September 15 – October 31, 2018.

“We encouraged teachers to discover new and innovative avenues for learning,” explained Foundations’ Executive Director Holly Doherty-Lemoine. “Teachers are sharing their vision with us and we are listening.”

This year, Foundations received forty-five grant proposals from twenty-two of the twenty-six diocesan-sponsored Catholic schools in Fairfield County. The grant requests totaled \$353,016, nearly three times the available funding.

A grants committee carefully reviewed each proposal and submitted recommendations to Foundations’ Board of Trustees for approval. The committee is led by Dr. Julie McNamara, president emeritus of Albertus Magnus College and Foundations’ board member.

An awards ceremony took place on Thursday, January 31 at the

Discovery Museum in Bridgeport where grant honorees shared their creative vision with Foundations’ board of trustees, grant committee members and donors.

The event was sponsored by Milestone C. Co-Founder and CEO Cemocan Yesil commented, “Milestone C’s mission to shape future STEM leaders is in perfect lockstep with Foundations in Education’s work supporting Catholic schools in Fairfield County to remain at the cutting edge of academics and leadership development. Like-minded organizations in education supporting one another is the first step to securing the future of a young generation.”

Thanks to the generosity of its donors, Foundations in Education continues its ongoing commitment to strengthening and transforming Catholic education.

“I am excited to support these

innovation grants that encourage our teachers and school leaders to seek out and implement new ideas to help our Catholic school students learn about, and respond to, the changing world,” commented Patrick Turner who supports the Foundation.

Foundations in Education is a non-profit initiative created to assist the Diocese of Bridgeport’s ongoing mission to support Catholic education in Fairfield County by supporting innovation in academic and extra-curricular programs, fostering opportunities for the professional development of school leaders and providing scholarship assistance to families in need.

*(To learn more about Foundations in Education or to learn how your gift can help transform the lives of Catholic school students, please visit Foundations in Education at: [www.foundationsineducation.org](http://www.foundationsineducation.org).)* ■

### 2019 Innovation and Leadership Grant Awards

**All Saints Catholic School, Norwalk:** Empowering Personalized Learning: Creating Centers for Innovative Thinkers \$12,000

**Assumption Catholic School, Fairfield:** Flexible Seating \$3,000

**Catholic Academy of Bridgeport—St. Ann Academy:** Greenhouse—Growing with a Purpose \$3,500 and **St. Raphael Academy:** Classroom Sensory Paths \$3,000

**Catholic Academy of Stamford:** Computer Science for Innovators and Makers & App Inventors \$3,500

**Holy Trinity Catholic Academy, Shelton:** Buzzing with Technology in Kindergarten \$1,600 and Making AR and VR a Reality in the Classroom \$13,146

**Immaculate High School, Danbury:** Music Production Lab \$6,909

**Notre Dame High School, Fairfield:** Drama Outreach Program \$5,000 and Global Education in Oxford (UK) \$7,500

**St. Catherine of Siena School, Trumbull:** Bee Amazing \$7,500 and Get a Leg Up with Legos! \$1,250

**St. Gregory the Great School, Danbury:** Compound Light Microscopes and Microscope Wi-Fi Camera \$2,500

**St. James School, Stratford:** Success with Smart Televisions \$8,400

**St. Joseph Catholic Academy, Brookfield:** Pre-K Readiness & Writing Program from Learning Without Tears \$800 and The Giving Tree \$750

**St. Joseph High School, Trumbull:** 21st Century “Big Tech” Pathway Course Overhaul \$13,000, Coding Club/Coding Class \$4,000 and Innovation Through Coding & Entrepreneurship \$2,000

**St. Joseph School, Danbury:** Stem Coding Project \$6,500

**St. Mark School, Stratford:** Oceanography in the Classroom and Beyond \$4,000 and Singing/Reading/Technology Connection \$1,445

**St. Peter School, Danbury:** Classroom Innovation Centers \$5,800 and Ukuleles for the Music Classroom \$2,000

**St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School, Fairfield:** Perspectives \$5,000 and Virtual Reality in the Classroom \$900

## Auctioneer for Fourth Annual Gala

By **AUSTIN RYAN**

BRIDGEPORT—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano and Foundations in Education will host their 4th annual gala on Thursday, April 11, 2019 at Woodway Country Club in Darien. They will be joined this year by professional auctioneer, Patrick Tully. Mr. Tully’s clients include LSA Family Health Service, Petra Nemcova’s Happy Hearts Fund, Russell Simmons Diamond Empowerment Fund, The Shaun O’Hara Foundation, the New York Giants and the US Ski Team.

Foundations in Education, through the generosity of its donors and volunteers, is



**PATRICK TULLY**

excited to feature a marvelous variety of unique items for its live auction. Featured is an exclusive Mass and Brunch with Bishop Caggiano for twenty people!

Other select live auction items include: an all-expense-paid trip for six people to Lido Key, Fla., which includes lodging at a magnificent 12,000 square-foot, six-bedroom mansion on the coast, a Lake George getaway for fourteen people boasting a guest cottage, direct waterfront access and dock space, the ultimate New York Giants experience for two fans featuring travel with the team aboard the Giants charter plane for an away game to Chicago during the 2019 season, a paid summer internship for a young college student considering a career in Wall Street finance at the prominent BluffPoint Associates private equity firm in Westport, Conn., dinner for twelve guests at the historic

Stonebrook House in Weston, Conn., an amazing Broadway Theater package and a private Long Island Sound boat cruise, including dinner and ice cream for twelve people!

All gala proceeds support the mission of Foundations in Education, including tuition assistance for more than 1,300 students through the Bishop’s Scholarship Fund as well as innovation and leadership grants for teachers.

*(For more information about the gala, including honorees, live auction items and sponsorship opportunities, please visit: [www.foundationsineducation.org](http://www.foundationsineducation.org) or contact Austin Ryan at: 203.416.1671 or [austin.ryan@foundationsineducation.org](mailto:austin.ryan@foundationsineducation.org).)* ■

# Obituary

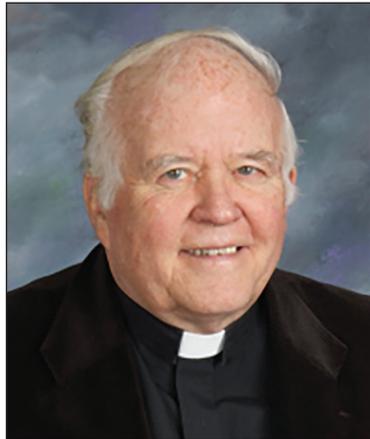
## Father Sangiovanni, 77

Reverend William F. Sangiovanni passed away on February 4, 2019. He was 77 years of age.

William Francis Sangiovanni was born in Brooklyn, New York, on February 24, 1941, son of Francis and Margaret (Muldoon) Sangiovanni. He was baptized on April 6, 1941, at Saint Bernadette Church in Brooklyn.

He attended Saint Gregory Elementary School and Saint Jerome Elementary School, Brooklyn, La Salle Academy, New York, and graduated from Fairfield University in 1962, where he received a bachelor's degree in history. He also earned a master's degree in Education and Arts from Fairfield University.

Father Sangiovanni received his priestly formation at the Seminary of Our Lady of Angels in Albany, New York, (1965-1969). After completing his theological studies, he took a leave of absence and served as special assistant to the Minority Leader of the Connecticut General Assembly and as assistant to Congressman Steward McKinney. He also worked with Glenmary Home Missions. After returning to the diocese, he was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of



REVEREND WILLIAM F. SANGIOVANNI

Bridgeport by the Most Reverend Walter W. Curtis in Saint Patrick Church on March 19, 1977.

He first served as parochial vicar of Saint Patrick Parish (1977-1981). In June 1980, he was named a part-time member of the faculty of Notre Dame High School, while continuing to serve at Saint Patrick. In July 1981, he was appointed spiritual director of Notre Dame while residing at Holy Rosary Parish in Bridgeport. In January 1986, he was named director of Sacred Heart University chaplains and took up residency at Saint Theresa Parish in Trumbull. In August 1990, he became a full-

time member of the faculty of Notre Dame High School. At Notre Dame High School, he was appointed assistant principal in July 1992, principal in July 1994 and president in July 2010.

Throughout his years of priestly ministry in the diocese, Father Sangiovanni also served on the Presbyteral Council and as chaplain of the Columbiettes of Park City Council #16 Knights of Columbus. He also was appointed to the the commission of the State of Connecticut and served as chaplain to the Bridgeport Correctional Center.

Father Sangiovanni retired on June 30, 2017, holding the title of president emeritus of Notre Dame High School.

Father Sangiovanni's body was received in the Gymnasium of Notre Dame High School on Friday, February 8th at 3 pm and lay in repose until 7 pm. A Vigil Mass was celebrated at 7 pm in the Gymnasium. Father Peter Cipriani was the celebrant, and Father Michael Dunn was the homilist. Bishop Caggiano celebrated the Funeral Mass on Saturday, February 9, at Saint Thomas Aquinas Church in Fairfield, and Father Peter Cipriani was the homilist.



### FAMILY BIBLE CHALLENGE

Encounter Scripture • Encounter Christ

The Leadership Institute of the Diocese of Bridgeport is pleased to introduce the Family Bible Challenge. The first season begins **Ash Wednesday, March 6, 2019**, and continues throughout Lent 2019. The second season will be held in Summer 2019. Families can join at any time.

#### Sunday

Each Sunday, families will receive an email identifying a new passage that they are asked to read together as a family, reflect upon, and discuss. We will provide the passage and the questions. You just have to make the time.

#### Wednesday

Each Wednesday, families will receive trivia questions that can be answered online. These questions will be about the week's passage as well as basic Catholic trivia. New questions appear each week.

### What's the challenge?

The "challenge" is to engage your family with Sacred Scripture. There is no contest. There are no rules. There is, however, the great benefit of falling in love with Jesus through the power of the Good News found in the Bible you will receive.

Will your family accept the Bishop's challenge?



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## DECEASED CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT FEBRUARY 17—MARCH 16

### FEBRUARY

17	Rev. George M. Karcinski	2006
20	Msgr. Andrew J. Hajus	1988
22	Msgr. George B. Curtiss	1982
23	Msgr. Miroslav J. Myschshyn	1980
24	Rev. Joseph E. Russo	1998
	Rev. Walter J. Seekamp	2012
26	Msgr. Henry E. Flanagan	1966
28	Rev. Stanley N. Koziol	2013

### MARCH

1	Rev. Leonard M. Conlon	1976
	Deacon Timothy Sullivan	2015
5	Msgr. John J. Pitonak	1990
8	Rev. Martin J. Nikodem	2018
	Rev. Boleslaus Rarus	2005
10	Rev. Raymond H. Stephenson	1990
12	Rev. Martin Hitchcock	2014
	Rev. Leo Suwinski	2005
13	Deacon Joseph L. Cross	2003
14	Rev. Vincent P. Cleary	1989
15	Msgr. Francis J. Sugrue	1977
	Msgr. Edward G. Zibell	1978
	Rev. William J. Galya	1994

# High School Sports

## Mazo joins Bike as National Player of Year

By **DON HARRISON**

As a freshman, Jessica Mazo had the good fortune to share the St. Joseph High soccer field with Jenna Bike, a senior who would be recognized as the 2015 Girls National Player of the Year.

en route to a 319-77-32 won-lost-tied record. He's also a guidance counselor at the Trumbull-based school.

According to Nogueira, Mazo improved "tremendously" since her freshman season, when St. Joe's won all but one of 23

ed her high school career with 62 goals and 109 points, both of which rank fourth in the St. Joseph girls soccer record book.

The Mazo family has embraced soccer. Her father, Hector, excelled in the game in his native Colombia as well as here. Her older sister, Dayanna, played the sport at Bridgeport Central High. And now Jessica will have the opportunity to join a high-level program at UConn.

"Jess is one of those players that doesn't come around too often," says Huskies coach Margaret Rodriguez. "She is gifted in every aspect of the game. She is a center-mid that can attack on the dribble, play a final pass, and she can finish. She is relentless on both sides of the ball in the midfield and is a force to be reckoned with."

And after college? Mazo: "If I could play professionally, I think I would. I'm also interested in coaching."

Mingachos, who will play at Quinnipiac next fall, concluded her four-year career at Immaculate with 49 goals and 40 assists. This past fall she sparked the team to a 12-3-1 record and a runner-up finish in the Class S state tournament, winning numerous honors, including All-New England and All-State. Kayla is the niece of her high school coach, Nelson Mingachos.

Whamond, named Player of the Year in the Southern Connecticut Conference and selected to the All-New England and All-State teams, was the spark behind a Prep squad that compiled an 18-2-1 record this past season. As a junior, he scored a remarkable five goals in a victory over Career/Hillhouse. ■



JESSICA MAZO, OF ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL, voted 2018 National Player of the Year by the United Soccer Coaches and an All-American for the third straight season, shares a proud moment with her family, mother Monica, older sister Dayanna and father Hector Mazo.

What are the odds that, three years later, the United Soccer Coaches would select Mazo for the same high honor?

Indeed, they did. Mazo, the Cadets' senior captain and play-making midfielder, was named 2018 National Player of the Year and selected to the Coaches' All-American team for the third straight season.

Two other athletes from Diocese of Bridgeport schools were voted to 2018 All-American teams. Kayla Mingachos, a senior midfielder at Immaculate High in Danbury, joined Mazo on the girls' squad, while Axel Whamond, a senior forward at Fairfield Prep, was chosen to the boys' All-American team.

"We've had a lot of outstanding players here, including seven All-Americans, but the two people I feel are the best are Jenna and Jessica," says Jack Nogueira, who has coached the Cadets to six state titles across 20 seasons

matches and captured the first of three straight Class L state championships. "Technically, she's very talented. But mentally she got even better," he noted.

A maturing Mazo, who committed to the University of Connecticut a year ago, was the catalyst behind two more state titles for St. Joe's in 2016 (20-2-1) and 2017 (19-1-4). But the Cadets came up short this past season, bowing to FCIAC rival Wilton, 2-1, on penalty kicks in the state tournament's second round.

Still, St. Joe's concluded 2018 at 15-3-2, a record that would satisfy most coaches and players.

"Soccer is a funny game. You can be the better team on the field..." Mazo's words ended, but her inference was clear. St. Joe's had defeated Wilton, 3-1, during the season.

Mazo, an honors student all four years and a member of the National Honor Society, concluded



TOP: AXEL WHAMOND of Fairfield Prep was selected to the 2018 All-American boys soccer team.

MIDDLE: WITH JESSICA MAZO on the field, St. Joe's won three Class L state titles.

BOTTOM: KAYLA MINGACHOS of Immaculate High joined Jessica Mazo on the 2018 All-American girls soccer team.

# Column: Thomas Hicks



## A river that never pauses

### POTPOURRI

BY THOMAS H. HICKS

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

Over the course of my life, there were days I wanted to salvage from the rush of time. I wished I could preserve a certain day from sliding away into the flow of time. I can picture myself clinging to a lovely, fulfilling day, repeating to myself “Don’t go—not yet—not yet—.” I wished I could stretch the day like a rubber band—pull it out and out and out. But time would not relent and the day slipped away as fast as any other.

I often wonder, where did they go, those used up days. John Donne wrote “tell me, where all past years are” (“Go Catch a Falling Star”). Do past years and days slip into nothingness? Or do they have some kind of eternal presence in God? Is there a gathering of all temporal times in an eternal present? Pavel Florensky, a Russian philosopher and priest, stated: “The past has not passed away, but is eternally preserved somewhere and continues to be real.” A modern Catholic philosopher, John Haught, also asks “do all things somehow remain in God?” He also asks “where does each moment come from in the first place?” (What Is God? p.25).

God is the giver of time. The sovereignty of God over the length of our lives is taught in Scripture. Our days are num-

bered, our term of life is fixed. Job 14:5: “Man’s days are determined; you have decreed the number of his months and set limits he cannot exceed.”

Psalms 139:16: “In your book were written all the days that were ordained for me when none of them as yet existed.” We all have our earthly allotment of time. A number of psalms pray to God: “Do not take me away before my days are complete” (Psa.102).

The Scriptures frequently summon us to remember the past, e.g., Psalm 143:5: “I remember the days of long ago...I muse on the work of your hands.” When I look over my own life and ask myself which years of it I would particularly like to live over again, I think the happiest times were my boyhood times, the time when life was young. As W.B. Yeats put it, it was the time “when I was a boy with never a crack in my heart” (“The Meditation of the Old Fisherman”).

My boyhood years were kind years to me. There were those vanished summers of a simpler era, a time of splendor in the grass. I shopped at Kresge’s and took girls to ice cream parlors. It was a time of innocent and uncomplicated faith. Something I chiefly remember about those days is the absence of fear. Now

fear seems to be a companion of us all. Job 29:1,4: “Oh, that I were as in years past...As I was in my flourishing days, when God sheltered my tent.” Or, as Shakespeare put it, “O! call back yesterday, bid time return” (Richard I, Act 3, Scene 2).

Time moves and all things come to an end. All things run their courses to their appointed ends. As Edmond Waller, the 17th century poet, put it in his beautiful poem “Go, Lovely Rose” there are so many lost and lovely things. Even that which is wondrous, sweet and fair doesn’t last. “The time of her sweetness

and fairness, will be short lived.”

There is a Spanish proverb that says, “there are three tyrants—the weather, il Padre, and il Tempo.”

There are the dear, dead joys of those days long past—the brightness and beauty that could not last. So many people I loved from my boyhood days naturally have died. When you lose somebody who remembers who and what you were in the fifth grade, you bury a part of yourself, a part of your life. Nobody remembers me as the fifth grader who made that splendid catch on a baseball field long since plowed under for

condominiums. There’s no one in whose eyes I can meet that fifth grader who sank the two foul shots that won that important game.

The dead are very close to me these days. I can see their faces. I long for them to be living and to have it all over again. There was a song from my boyhood days titled “Till We Meet Again”:

Smile the while you kiss me sad adieu.

When the clouds roll by I’ll come to you...

So wait and pray each night for me

Till we meet again. ■

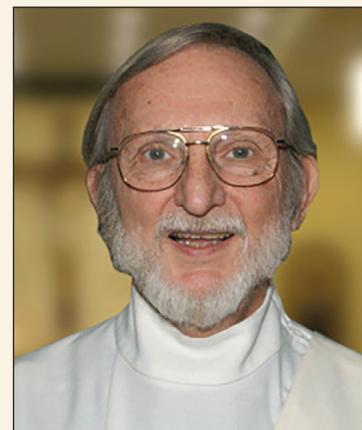
### NY’S DENIAL OF LIFE FROM PAGE 9

words, even if the abortion was not reasonably necessary for the mother’s health or for any other permitted reason, the mother could seek an abortion at the very end of the third trimester and even if the baby were delivered still alive, there would be no criminal penalty imposed for the murder of the child post birth. That is what this act permits, even if unwittingly.

In essence, the act focuses entirely on a woman’s privacy rights, as previously defined (rather lately by constitutional standards) by the United States Supreme Court. Remarkably, it never addresses a right presumably as fundamental as privacy—namely the right to life itself. It is axiomatic and self-evident that no constitutional or moral right has any meaning if the simple right to live is not first guaranteed. That is what I find most disturbing about this warped and ill-conceived piece of legislation. It virtually assumes that a developing child in utero is only a piece of human tissue not worthy of protection until it suddenly bursts forth from the mother’s birth canal. It boggles the mind that any reasonable person could believe such an obvious falsehood. The scientific evidence overwhelmingly confirms the existence of human life as early as the first trimester, never mind the third!

And so, the question I pose is this: why has not the abortion debate centered on the question

of when human life is created? It appears that the proponents of unlimited abortion would rather “overlook” that fundamental moral, legal, philosophical and religious question than actually



DEACON PAUL KURMAY

deal with it honestly and openly.

For every Christian, including every Catholic Christian, the biblical basis for the beginning of human life is both clear and unequivocal. Luke’s narrative of the Annunciation makes it clear that the moment Mary consented to Gabriel’s invitation to become the Mother of God, “the Word became flesh.” When Mary approached Elizabeth’s door step, we are told that Elizabeth’s baby leaped for joy in her womb and that Elizabeth boldly and prophetically proclaimed to Mary: “Who am I that the Mother of my Lord should come to me?” Do you realize that these “good” Catholic politicians are impliedly saying that Jesus was not a human being until He was actu-

ally born?

There is not a single theologian I know of who would ever say such a preposterous and blasphemous thing. It is theoretically possible for a person to conclude that human life begins at birth (despite all the scientific evidence to the contrary), but it is absolutely impossible for a Christian to do so. Such a person would have to reach the impossible conclusion that Jesus had no right to exist in Mary’s womb, because, after all, it wasn’t really Jesus taking up space in Mary’s womb, but only a piece of “pre-human” tissue, no more worthy of existence than a piece of undigested food! For our Jewish and Muslim friends, the Old Testament is just as clear.

This act is quite literally a crime against humanity. It deserves the complete and unequivocal condemnation by the Pope, every bishop, priest, deacon and the religious and lay community. If we as the Body of Christ do not oppose this evil, what evil will we oppose? If we do not attempt to protect the innocent unborn, who will we protect? And if we are unwilling to come to the defense of unborn children, why in the world should we expect God to come to our defense?

(Deacon Paul Kurmay has served as a Deacon at St. Mark’s Parish in Stratford since 1985. He is a graduate of Fairfield Prep, University of Virginia, and Georgetown Law Center.) ■

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# Column: Joe Pisani



## Shelter from the storm

### SWIMMING UPSTREAM

BY JOE PISANI

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

When my grandparents arrived in America almost a century ago, they moved into a second-floor flat on Sherman Street in Bridgeport, across from St. Mary Church and next to the convent where the Sisters of Mercy lived.

They didn't know what the New World would bring, but they were hopeful it would be better than what the Old World offered. They raised nine kids in that apartment. Then, my grandfather died, leaving my grandmother to raise them alone. Her name was Angelina, or "little angel," which I've always believed was an appropriate epitaph for her life.

During the Great Depression, she sent the boys out to shine

shoes on East Main Street and collect coal that had fallen off trucks down by the harbor. In those days, there were no social service agencies to help her. There was only the Church.

Her children went to St. Mary School, and the nuns spared no discipline when it came to my father and his brothers. On Sunday, my grandmother made sure everyone was up in time for Mass.

When I was a young boy, I lived with her for several years and we went to Mass at St. Mary's together. I still recall its stunning stained glass windows and the beautiful image of the Blessed Mother being assumed into Heaven.

As I knelt in the quiet, the priest intoned the words of the Consecration in Latin. Beside me, my grandmother fingered her rosary beads. She was one of the little gray-haired ladies you saw so often, a Catholic icon from an earlier time, who prayed the Rosary because she believed in its tremendous spiritual power and Our Lady's unfailing intercession.

As a child, I would lie on the kitchen floor by the stove with my coloring book while she baked two sweet potatoes for us and sat in her rocking chair, praying the Rosary. Someday I'll learn the true power of her prayers. You see, she was one of those people that secular elitists ridicule nowadays because they pray to God for help and consolation...and because they place their faith in Christ rather than politicians and world leaders.

Years later, while I was at St. Joseph High School, we went to St. Mary School once a week to tutor students. The church was the same, but by then my grandmother was living in a nursing home in Milford.

Another time, I went to confession, and Father Ed Coyne tore into me for some adolescent indiscretion, which prompted me to come out of the dark confessional and vow, "I'm never going back to that guy!" God, however, had different plans. He later became a good friend...and I often went to him for confession. He'd always be sitting in the reconciliation room, praying the Rosary.

A while back, I visited St. Mary's for the first time in a very long time. The school and convent were gone. The old church, which had been demolished in 1982, was replaced by a beautiful circular building with a tile mosaic of the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe over the front doors. The original stained-glass windows surround the interior, and there is a large image of the risen Christ above the altar. A statue of St. Anthony, which once stood in the old church, is at the entrance along with St. John the Baptist, patron of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

An Adoration Chapel was added, where daily Mass is held with Eucharistic Adoration from 8 am to 10 pm Monday through

Friday. Above the altar is a replica of the cross of San Damiano from which Christ spoke to St. Francis of Assisi and told him to rebuild his church. On the altar is a relic of Francis.

The mission of St. Mary's is still the same—to spread the love of Christ to everyone, particularly those who are dispossessed and impoverished, spiritually and physically. That morning I met Father Rolando Torres, who introduced me to a family that had just arrived from Puerto

Rico after losing everything in Hurricane Maria. Father found them an apartment, and introduced them to the parish. Their story reminded me of my grandparents' experience as Italian immigrants arriving in Bridgeport so long ago.

In 2000 years, the mission of the Church has not changed. It is still the source of spiritual nourishment, it is still the source of charity and love, and it is forever the light that leads us to Christ in a darkened world. ■

## FCC's Special Lent and Easter Issues

March Lenten Issue - in homes March 16

April Easter Issue - in home April 13

Please share your Lenten Confession and Lecture/Retreat schedules in our March Lenten Section

Please share your Holy Week and Easter Mass schedules in our special Holy Week and Easter Parish guide  
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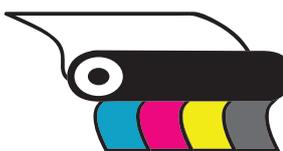
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# Nuestra Voz

## Papa Francisco se reúne con jóvenes en Panamá

By MARICARMEN GODOY

CIUDAD DE PANAMÁ— Veinte “peregrinos” (residentes) del condado de Fairfield llegaron a Panamá junto con el obispo Frank J. Caggiano para la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud; ocasión que escucharon del mismísimo Papa Francisco decir: “que los jóvenes no son la esperanza del mañana sino el presente vivo del proyecto de Dios”.

El lunes, después de hacer un recorrido por el Canal de Panamá y las calles y plazas antiguas de Ciudad de Panamá, los peregrinos se acomodaron para su jornada semanal. Desde su llegada, cada día comenzaron con la oración de la mañana y una breve reunión.

El martes, los peregrinos exploraron la ciudad y luego se reunieron con miles de peregrinos de todo el mundo para la ceremonia de apertura y la misa con el arzobispo de Panamá en Cinto Costera.

El miércoles, asistieron a una de las sesiones de catequesis

en inglés con el Obispo de la Diócesis de Bridgeport, Frank Caggiano, quien habló sobre el día mundial de la juventud: “Aquí estoy Señor”, dijo, refiriéndose a que Jesús llamó a los apóstoles amigos hasta la Última Cena y ahora también ha llamado a sus amigos los “jóvenes” que por ende deben responder al llamado de hacer Su voluntad.

El miércoles por la tarde y por la noche, asistieron al Festival Fiat en el Centro de Convenciones de Figali, un evento que fue patrocinado por los Caballeros de Colón, FOCUS y la USCCB. El obispo Caggiano, el obispo Burns de Dallas, el obispo Barron de Los Angeles y la hermana Bethany Madonna.

En el encuentro hablaron frente a 10.000 peregrinos de habla inglesa que se reunieron para la alabanza y adoración del Santísimo.

El jueves, el obispo Caggiano celebró la misa para la Diócesis de Bridgeport y los dirigió en una reflexión y discusión antes de ir a Cinto Costera para el discurso de bienvenida del Papa Francisco.



DURANTE LA JORNADA MUNDIAL DE LA JUVENTUD con el Papa Francisco los jóvenes de todas partes del mundo escucharon al Pontífice que les dijo que NO eran en el futuro de la humanidad sino el presente vivo del proyecto de Dios; mientras que a los obispos les recordó la vida ejemplar del Santo Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Arzobispo de El Salvador, quien vivió para los pobres.

El Papa alentó a todos los jóvenes reunidos y les reafirmó que la Iglesia está caminando con ellos. “Venimos de diferentes culturas y personas, hablamos diferentes idiomas y vestimos diferentes ropas. Cada uno de nuestros pueblos ha tenido una historia diferente y ha vivido

situaciones diferentes. ¡Somos diferentes de muchas maneras! Pero nada de eso nos ha impedido encontrarnos y regocijarnos por estar juntos. El motivo de esto, sabemos, es que algo nos une”, dijo el Papa.

Y enseguida el Papa continuó diciendo: “Podemos preguntar: ¿Qué nos mantiene unidos? ¿Por qué estamos unidos? ¿Qué nos impulsa a encontrarnos? La certeza de saber que hemos sido amados con un amor profundo que no podemos ni queremos guardar silencio sobre un amor que nos desafía a responder de la misma manera: con amor. Es el amor de Cristo lo que nos impulsa a continuar (cf. 2 Cor. 5:14)”.

Durante el resto del tiempo en Panamá, los jóvenes del Condado de Fairfield asistieron a peregrinar por las estaciones de la cruz y en una vigilia nocturna

con el Papa Francisco, mientras disfrutaron de toda la belleza que Panamá ofreció.

El Papa Francisco en la audiencia general de fin de mes en Roma, sobre su reciente viaje a Panamá, indicó que con motivo de la celebración de la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud, que tenía como lema las palabras de María: “Aquí está la sierva del Señor; hágase en mí según tu palabra”. Los jóvenes cristianos, provenientes de tantos países, tantas culturas diversas, también de pueblos nativos y afroamericanos, “han puesto de manifiesto la belleza del rostro multiforme de la Iglesia, y con su deseo de encontrarse han dado al mundo un verdadero testimonio de paz”, afirmación que el Papa repuso a todos los visitantes y peregrinos presentes en el Aula Pablo VI.

En la Vigilia y la Misa de la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud, “les propuse a los jóvenes el ejemplo de María que con su fiat –hágase– ha sido la persona que más ha influido en el mundo y los invité a vivir el Evangelio en el hoy, porque los jóvenes son el hoy de la Iglesia y del mundo”, repuso el Papa.

En el encuentro con los Obispos –ha señalado el Papa– “recordamos la figura de san Oscar Romero, aprendiendo de su testimonio de vida y de su cercanía con el pueblo de Dios”.

Por último, la consagración del altar de la Catedral restaurada de Santa María La Antigua, “nos recordó la unción del Espíritu Santo de la que participa todo el pueblo de Dios por el bautismo”.



### 2019 MASS OF HOPE AND HEALING SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2019 | 2:00 P.M.

**The Most Rev. Frank Caggiano**, together with a planning committee of Survivors of Sexual Abuse as Minors by Priests, will hold a very special Mass for anyone who has been sexually abused as a minor and for others who have been impacted. The Mass will be held on **Sunday, April 7th, 2019 at 2:00 PM** at St. Joseph Church 8 Robinson Avenue, Danbury CT. Light Refreshments will be served immediately following the Mass.

There are regularly scheduled gatherings for any person who has been sexually abused as a minor, as well as any family members of survivors, to meet with the victim assistance coordinators and fellow survivors of sexual abuse for friendship, prayer and for peer support.

- **Monday February 25, 2019** – Open Meeting for Survivors of Sexual Abuse as a Minor. 6:00 PM-7:30 PM Catholic Center 238 Jewett Avenue, Bridgeport CT
- **Thursday March 14, 2019** – Open Meeting for Family Members of Survivors 6:00 PM-7:30 PM the Newman Center Danbury 7 8th Ave, Danbury, CT
- **Tuesday March 26, 2019** – Open Meeting for Survivors of Sexual Abuse as a Minor. 6:30 PM -8:00 PM St. Roch Church 10 St Roch Ave, Greenwich, CT

If you are an adult survivor of sexual abuse as a minor or a family member of a survivor and you would like to learn more about the Mass, the upcoming meetings and other resources that are available in our Diocese, please contact one of our Victim Assistance Coordinators,

Erin Neil, L.C.S.W., 203.650.3265 Or Michael Tintrup, L.C.S.W. 203.241.0987

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# Bits and Pieces

\* For more events happening around the diocese, visit our website calendar at: [dobcalendar.bridgeportdiocese.org](http://dobcalendar.bridgeportdiocese.org).

**DIDACHE PROGRAM** is being held at St. Mary in Bethel. The topic is The Mass and Our Preparation. The program began **Thurs., Jan. 31** and will continue for 9 weeks following, every Thurs. from **6:30-7:30 pm**.

**COME AND SEE** if you are being called to a vocation in the Secular Franciscan Order. The Secular Franciscan Holy Spirit Fraternity invites everyone to St. Anthony of Padua Church in Fairfield on **Sat., Feb. 16**, at **9:30 am** to celebrate Mass in the church. Celebrant is Fr. Gene Szantyr. For further info call Pat Heile, OFS at: 203.255.8801 or email at: [pheile5713@aol.com](mailto:pheile5713@aol.com).

**CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS OF GREATER DANBURY** will gather on **Sat., Feb. 16**, at **6:30 pm** at Brookfield Lanes in Brookfield. Join us for dinner, bowling and fellowship! Please email us at: [catholic.ya.danbury@gmail.com](mailto:catholic.ya.danbury@gmail.com) to be placed on our email list and to ask us any questions you may have.

**NEW PROGRAM SERIES** "Reflections on Religious Identity within the Contemporary World" by Deacon Robert Henrey at St. Catherine of Siena in Riverside. One-hour presentations will begin after Mass by **11:45 am** in the parish hall. **Sun., Feb. 17**: Pre-Columbian Peru.

**CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS OF GREATER DANBURY** will gather on **Wed., Feb. 20**, at **7 pm** for Faith Formation and Discussion at Sacred Heart Parish Center in Danbury. Please email us at: [catholic.ya.danbury@gmail.com](mailto:catholic.ya.danbury@gmail.com) to be placed on our email list and to ask us any questions you may have.

**CHRIST LIFE, A CATHOLIC MINISTRY FOR EVANGELIZATION** will have their next sessions of

"Discovering Christ" on the following dates: **Feb., 25, March 3, 11, 18, 25**, at **6:30 pm**. The series includes a **Sat.** retreat on **March 30** and will be held at St. Pius X Parish Community Center in Fairfield. For further information contact Viki at Holy Family Parish at: 203.336.1835, email at: [Christlifefld@gmail.com](mailto:Christlifefld@gmail.com), or register at: [www.holyfamilyrc.com/christlife](http://www.holyfamilyrc.com/christlife).

**FIRST FRIDAY LECTURE SERIES** is being held at St. Luke Church in Westport. On **Fri., March 1**, Professor Harold Attridge Ph.D. will share with us his insights into St. Paul's Letters to the Romans. Each evening begins at **7 pm** with a wine and cheese reception. The lectures begin promptly at **7:30 pm** and conclude with a question and answer session until approximately **8:45 pm**, after which many gather to meet the speaker and discuss the lecture with each other.

**SIP AND PAINT FUNDRAISER** Immaculate High School's Fine Arts Department is holding its second annual Sip 'N Paint fundraiser to benefit its music, theater, visual and graphic arts programs on **Fri., March 1**. The event will take place at IHS from **6:30-8:30 pm**. Tickets are \$45 per person (raffles and silent auction are additional) and must be purchased in advance at: [www.immaculatehs.org/sipnpaint](http://www.immaculatehs.org/sipnpaint).

**CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS LADIES TEA** is being hosted by The Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court St. Matthew, on **Sun., March 3**, at **2 pm** at St. Matthew Church, Norwalk. Please join us for Tea and a light lunch. Ladies are encouraged to wear hats. Guest speaker is Corinne Murphy. Tickets are \$20 each. For reserva-

tions or more info., please contact Anita at: 203.644.2875 or email at: [AnitaRN@optonline.net](mailto:AnitaRN@optonline.net).

**CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS OF GREATER DANBURY** will gather on **Tues., March 5**, at **6:45 pm** for a Praise and Worship Holy Hour at Sacred Heart Parish in Danbury, followed by a social at a local eatery. Please email us at: [catholic.ya.danbury@gmail.com](mailto:catholic.ya.danbury@gmail.com) to be placed on our email list and to ask us any questions you may have.

**ST. ROSE WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT** will take place on **Sat., March 9**, from **8 am-4 pm**. Our theme this year is "Come Grow with Us—Grow in Grace." Registration fee is \$25. Please contact: Mrs. Cate Gosselin at 203.426.2333 ext.1 or email: [dre@strosecchurch.com](mailto:dre@strosecchurch.com) to register. Checks may be made payable and mailed to St. Rose Church, attn: Women's Retreat.

**THE RITE OF ELECTION** will be celebrated by Bishop Caggiano on **Sun., March 10**, **2 pm** at St. Theresa church in Trumbull. For more info call: 203.416.1670.

**DIACONATE DISCOVERY EVENINGS** will be held on the **second Thurs.** of each month through Sept. 2019 from **7-8:30 pm**. Dates are as follows: St. Stephen Parish: **April 11, Aug. 8**. St. Phillip Parish: **May 9, July 11**. St. Marguerite Parish: **March 14, June 13, Sept. 12**.

**NOTRE DAME FAIRFIELD** will be hosting its Lancer Legacy Gala on **Sat., March 16**, at the Waterview in Monroe. The event is open to the public and all proceeds will benefit the students of Notre Dame. For tickets, sponsorship, donations and additional info, visit: [notredame.ejoinme.org/2019Gala](http://notredame.ejoinme.org/2019Gala) or contact us at 203.372.6521. Tickets must be

purchased by **Feb. 25**.

**NOTRE DAME FAIRFIELD** is holding a fundraiser, raffling \$15,000 tuition to the grand prize winner's school of choice (K-college). The raffle is open to the public (any U.S. resident). There are only 500 tickets available for sale at a cost of \$100 per ticket. The winning ticket will be drawn on **Sat., March 16** during the Notre Dame Lancer Legacy Gala. Winner need not be present to win. For more info visit: [www.notredame.org](http://www.notredame.org).

**A ST. PATRICK'S DAY CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER** with entertainment by well-known Irish songwriter and guitarist, Paul Pender & Deidre McMorro, fiddler, playing & singing traditional Irish and Celtic music will take place at St. Stephen Church in Trumbull on **Sat., March 16**, from **6-10 pm**. For more info, or to register call Mary at: 203.452.8333 or Doris at: 203.261.9778.

**RESERVE TICKETS NOW** for Immaculate High School's 14th Annual Spring Gala, Springtime in Paris, at

the Amber Room Colonnade on **Sat., March 23**. The Gala will honor Denis Bouffard with the Immaculate High School Lifetime Achievement Award (posthumously) and Carl '71 and Lauren Bailey with the Distinguished Service Award. Tickets, sponsorships and program ads are available at [www.immaculatehs.org/gala](http://www.immaculatehs.org/gala).

**CONFESSION AND ADORATION** is offered every Tuesday from **7-8:30 pm** at St. Catherine of Siena in Trumbull.

**PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION!** Spend time with Jesus in the Most Holy Eucharist at Our Lady of Fatima Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel of St. Theresa Parish at 5310 Main Street, Trumbull. The Chapel is open 24 hours, 7 days a week. The entrance to the Chapel is on Rosemond Terrace. If interested in making a weekly holy hour as a Eucharistic Guardian, please visit our website at: [StTheresaTrumbull.org](http://StTheresaTrumbull.org) or call the Parish Office at: 203.261.3676. Office Hours are: **Mon.-Fri., 8:30 am-4:40 pm**. ■

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