

THE MONTHLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT



# FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC

SEPTEMBER 2019 | VOLUME 36, NUMBER 8 | BACK TO SCHOOL ISSUE

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE



3  
*Judge Holzberg set to issue Accountability Report*



23  
*Honoring Sister Nancy Strillacci on her 50th anniversary*

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

 Facebook: [Diocese of Bridgeport Bishop Frank J. Caggiano](#)  
Twitter: [@diobpt](#) [@BishopCaggiano](#)  
Instagram: [dioceseofbridgeport bishopfrankcaggiano](#)



UPDATE: WE STAND WITH CHRIST — SEE PAGES 15-18

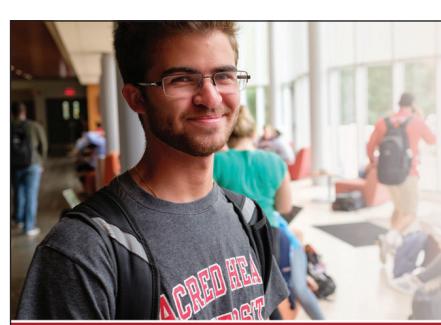


Your life isn't slowing down.  
Make sure your heart can keep up.

Get an affordable calcium scoring heart scan  
To schedule, please call 203-380-3916 to talk with a  
St. Vincent's specialist or visit [stvincents.org/heartsan](#)



© Ascension 2019



**YOUR DEGREE**  
*at your pace*

Sacred Heart University offers flexible  
part-time, full-time and transfer options  
designed for your success.

Learn more at: [www.sacredheart.edu/ptadmissions](#)



# Pastoral Planning

## To everything there is a season

*Dear friends,*

As the words from the Book of Ecclesiastes remind us, "There is an appointed time for everything..." (Ecc 3:1). It is with a deep sense of excitement, mixed with real sadness, that I write to let you know that September 13, 2019 will be my last day as Director of Strategic and Pastoral Planning for the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Over the last six months, I have been discerning a call to move in a new direction. This discernment has challenged me to look at the next and probably final steps in my professional career.

These last five years in the Diocese of Bridgeport have been invigorating, exciting, challenging, overwhelming and sometimes extremely frustrating. Coming here in 2014 to help shepherd the synod, following by my work in strategic and pastoral planning has introduced me to so many talented, faith-filled people in Fairfield County.

I am extremely grateful to Bishop Caggiano for his steadfast support over all these years. He has been a boss, a colleague, a mentor and a friend, and I will truly miss working with him.

I have been blessed to work with so many talented women and men at the Catholic Center that to try to single any of them out would be an injustice. I see from the inside the long hours of hard work, dedication and devotion given during the day, in the evenings, and on weekends to their ministries to support the individuals, schools, parishes and clergy of this diocese. I am so grateful to have been part of this body working to revitalize and strengthen our parishes and schools to make them sustainable for the future.

To the priests and deacons who have become my friends, thank you for your ministry and grace in the face of numerous challenges.



PATRICK TURNER

In addition to my work with the priests and parish leadership, I am extremely proud that I had the opportunity to help establish the Diocesan Addiction Support and Healing (DASH) ministry to work with priests, deacons and women religious who may be struggling with alcoholism and substance abuse. I hope that others in recovery will come along to pick up this vital role.

Working with the diocesan planning group of clergy sexual abuse survivors and family members has been a truly grace-filled opportunity. These men and women have taken a horrible experience, and through faith in God and a desire to see the good in others, have come forward (survivors and family members alike) to work with Bishop Caggiano to create an atmosphere of hope and healing for so many others.

In closing, filled with gratitude for all that I have experienced in these last five years, I would like to share a prayer from Thomas Merton that I often use with parish leadership groups:

"To be grateful is to recognize the Love of God in everything He has given us—and He has given us everything. Every breath we draw is a gift of His love, every moment of existence is a grace, for it brings with it immense graces from Him. Gratitude therefore takes nothing for granted, is never unresponsive, is constantly awakening to new wonder and to praise the goodness of God. For the grateful person knows that God is good, not by hearsay, but by experience. At that is what makes all the difference." (Thomas Merton)

May God continue to bless Bishop Caggiano, the Diocese of Bridgeport, and all of you in the coming years. Please keep me in your prayers.

Patrick Turner



## DIOCESAN BLUE MASS

Commemorating the Eighteenth Anniversary of 9-11

9
8
19

**9:30 AM MASS**  
**ST. AUGUSTINE CATHEDRAL**  
**399 WASHINGTON AVENUE**  
**BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT**



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

**Everyone welcome!**  
Reception immediately following the Mass in the Kolbe Cathedral gym.

The Diocesan Blue Mass is co-sponsored by the Diocese of Bridgeport, and Fairfield County Councils and Assemblies of the Knights of Columbus. For more information, contact Elizabeth Auda, 203.416.1636.



### ON THE COVER | CONTENTS

*Young people throughout the diocese awake to God's love and celebrate their faith at this year's Fan the Fire held recently at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Newtown. (Photo by Amy Mortensen)*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>6 <b>NEW PRINCIPALS ANNOUNCED</b><br/>Nine schools get new leaders</p> <p>8 <b>THE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE</b><br/>A conversation on Homebound Communion</p> <p>12 <b>CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE SET</b><br/>Helping men forge their path to holiness</p> <p>19 <b>BISHOP REDEDICATES ST. ROSE</b><br/>Celebrating the renovated Church and campus</p> | <p>21 <b>CATHOLIC ACADEMY GOLF CLASSIC</b><br/>A swinging success for the students</p> <p>22 <b>NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NAMED</b><br/>For Catholic Academy of Bridgeport</p> <p>25 <b>IMMACULATE RUNNERS MOVE ON</b><br/>Two gifted athletes headed for college</p> <p>31 <b>GARLIC FEST IS BACK!</b><br/>Notre Dame celebrates Fr. Bill's vision</p> |
|---|--|



# Latest News

## Judge Holzberg to offer report update to priests

BRIDGEPORT—Retired Connecticut Superior Court Judge Robert Holzberg, who is leading an independent investigation into the handling of the abuse crisis by the Diocese of Bridgeport, will speak to the presbyterate of the Diocese of Bridgeport at their annual fall meeting on September 12 at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Weston.

Although the Clerical Sexual Abuse Accountability Report is not yet complete, the judge will discuss the methodology, policies and procedures, and provide a verbal overview of the topics covered by the report, which has been a year in the making. More than 200 priests throughout the diocese are expected to attend.

The final written report along with its findings and recommendations is expected to be released to all at the same time by Judge Holzberg at the end of September. It will be published

in its entirety online on the diocesan website ([www.bridgeport-diocese.com](http://www.bridgeport-diocese.com)), and a summary of the extensive document will be provided in the October issue of *Fairfield County Catholic*.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano who commissioned the report in October 2018 in response to the abuse crisis, said he felt it was important that the priests of the diocese receive a report summary that will help them to prepare for questions and respond to the concerns of parishioners.

"The abuse crisis has wounded the entire Church, first and foremost the victims and their families but in a larger sense all those affected by the abuse. That includes our many good and faithful priests," said Bishop Caggiano.

The report was originally expected to be released in spring of 2019 but the large volume of records and scope of interviews required more time.



RETIED SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE ROBERT HOLZBERG—As he nears completion of the clerical sexual abuse Accountability Report, Judge Holzberg will speak to the priests of the diocese at their annual Fall meeting on September 12 at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Weston. The judge will discuss his methodology and deliver a verbal overview of topics.

It will offer a complete and comprehensive accounting of the sexual abuse of minors by clergy in the Diocese of Bridgeport, along with the response of diocesan leadership since the inception of the diocese in 1953.

Judge Holzberg provided

Bishop Caggiano with a preliminary update on the investigation in a February 19, 2019 letter in which he commented on the significant undertaking and noted "the full and enthusiastic cooperation we have received from the leadership and staff of the

diocese."

At that time the judge wrote that "the scope of our undertaking is extensive, involving review of thousands of files, hundreds of thousands of individual documents, inspection of offsite locations such as parish offices and files, the capture and review of electronically stored information, interviews with key participants, review and analysis of past and current sexual abuse and reporting policies and upon completion of the data gathering portion of the process, reviewing, analyzing, synthesizing and reporting out our findings and conclusions."

The initial four months of his investigation focused on data collection including meetings and interviews with Bishop Caggiano and the diocesan leadership team, other key diocesan officials and inspections of the diocesan headquarters and file storage areas.

► *CONTINUED ON PAGE 4*

## Education without Christ does not lead to fulfillment

By ELIZABETH CLYONS

BRIDGEPORT—A buzz of excitement for the new school year filled the Klein Auditorium at the annual convocation for Diocese of Bridgeport Catholic Schools.

Hundreds of teachers, principals and administrators gathered for Mass, a reception and to hear from keynote speaker Thomas Thibodeau.

"That, my friends, is the pearl of Catholic education," Bishop Frank J. Caggiano said in his homily, "to not only know the truths of life but to know the one who is the way, the truth and the life."

The bishop explained to the educators gathered that they are to act as spiritual mothers and fathers to their students, saying, "It will be by your own striving for holiness that you will come to bring your students to Jesus."

"That, my friends, is what makes your vocation as Catholic educators so unique, so special and in many ways so divine," the bishop said.

The Mass was accompanied



BACK TO SCHOOL TEACHER CONVOCATION—Hundreds of teachers throughout the diocese gathered at the Klein Memorial in Bridgeport recently for Mass and their annual convocation. The bishop told teachers they are the "spiritual mothers and fathers" of the children entrusted to their care.

by beautiful music provided by the Kolbe Cathedral High School Choir directed by Joe Elbertson.

The bishop urged the educators to persevere, thanking them for all they do and acknowledging that it is not easy work, but that it is most important work.

Executive Director of Foundations in Education Holly Doherty-Lemoine, CFRE, provided an update on the 2019 Innovation and Leadership grants through Foundations in

Education, for which applications will be open from September 15-October 31. Doherty-Lemoine also announced the availability of a grant writing workshop in the coming month for those who may need assistance.

Dr. Steven Cheeseman, superintendent of schools addressed the gathered, saying, "Just as you were made in God's image and likeness, so were your students." Dr. Cheeseman spoke about the importance of recognizing the

dignity and uniqueness of each student and how the implementation of personalized learning is allowing and will allow for the focus to be on each student in an individualized, experiential approach.

The personalized learning program, which was implemented in six schools this past academic year, creates a seamless kindergarten to eighth grade blended learning experience that effectively marries the traditional excellence of Catholic schools with the wealth of technology resources available to challenge, inspire and motivate students.

"As you enter your classroom," said Dr. Cheeseman, "you do so as living witnesses to the faith...you belong to something special."

Keynote speaker Thomas Thibodeau, a distinguished professor of servant leadership at Viterbo University and the only master's degree holder of servant leadership in the country, spoke about the importance of compassion. "Perhaps this is who we truly are," he said, "this deep capacity to care for each other."

He instructed educators to think of all the children and all the lives that reap the benefit of their goodness.

Thibodeau posed the question, "What do you see in the eyes of your students?" Reminding them that "the secret to the curriculum is in the eyes of the teacher."

He also encouraged the educators to strengthen relationships among each other, explaining that "the strength of your relationships is correlative to your relationships with your students."

Thibodeau also stressed the importance of appreciation and the power of one's words. "Service is love made visible," he said, reminding each person present the importance of remembering "the good stuff" when things get tough. "Joy is the infallible sign of God's love," he said, complimenting the Diocese of Bridgeport Catholic Schools on their ability to laugh and talk with one another—because that, he said, is the "good stuff."

(To learn more about Catholic schools in the Diocese of Bridgeport visit: [dioceseofbridgeportcatholicschools.com](http://dioceseofbridgeportcatholicschools.com).)

# Fan the Fire

## Youth Rally: ‘We are in His Hands!’

By MICHELLE ONOFRIO

**NEWTOWN**—An expression commonly used by the youth of today is “stay woke.” It means “to pay attention, to be awake, to be alert,” as Father Joseph Espaillat informed those gathered for Mass as part of the Fan the Fire youth rally at St. Rose of Lima Church in Newtown.



More than 300 teens from around the diocese gathered at St.

Rose for a day of prayer, fun and fellowship that helped each participant deepen their relationship with Christ.

The theme for this year’s rally was “Connection.” When asked as to what the inspiration was behind choosing this theme, Rod Blessey, St. Rose’s youth minister and the coordinator of Fan the Fire said, “We are a very diverse diocese. We want to make sure that everybody knows that we are connected through the Eucharist and our faith.”

The teen participants had opportunities to be reminded of this through keynote talks and breakout sessions that focused on their connection to God through Scripture, Mary and the Eucharist. It was an opportunity for them to meet other young people from the diocese and recognize that they are not alone on their journey of faith.

Michelle Demotte, a parishioner of St. Rose and a rising senior at Immaculate High School has



been to Fan the Fire three times and said that this year was her favorite. The large turnout was exciting and she was “so happy to see all these people coming to

our parish and to be able to welcome them.”

As she prepares to start college soon, Michelle said this event has reminded her of the importance of spending time with the people who love her; now is the time to be sure to express her love for them.

Caroline Taylor (17), a parishioner of St. Pius X and St. Thomas Aquinas Parishes in Fairfield and a student at Lauralton Hall, had a peaceful experience at Fan the Fire. One of her favorite moments was during one of Father Joseph’s keynotes, where he just invited everyone to conduct their own prayer.

“I could just feel everyone open to prayer,” said Taylor, referencing Father Joe’s talk about how God hides and we must seek him in places we might not expect to find him.

Angela Hite, a chaperone for St. Edward the Confessor’s youth group (New Fairfield), reflected on her hopes for her teens during the rally. Some of her teens were in 8th grade, so this was probably the first time they had ever experienced an event like this.

She and fellow chaperone Kelly LaRegina hoped that all their teens would open up (which they had already begun to see happen) and start to take their faith into their own hands.

The visual of “hands” was present in Father Joseph’s homily at Mass, where he shared a poem called “Whose Hands It’s In.”

It spoke of different objects that, when in certain people’s hands, take on new value.

He said that when we carry nails in our hands, they can be used to build something, but when they are in the hands of Christ, they produce our salvation.

Father Espaillat reminded the participants that we are in God’s



hands and that when life becomes challenging, we must remember this truth. As Catholics, much is given to us (Jesus Christ, totally present in the Eucharist), and much is expected of us because of this. We must not fear because “we are connected and we are in His hands.”

Participants had opportunities to play games outdoors and enjoy the beautiful weather. The day concluded with a Eucharistic Holy Hour and procession. Praise and worship music provided by the St. Rose Youth Band aided in the prayerful and powerful experience.

### JUDGE HOLZBERG FROM PAGE 3

Meetings were held with current and former counsel for the diocese as well as counsel for those bringing claims against the diocese. Outreach to victims/survivors of clergy abuse and the members of the diocese, through individual meetings, a dedicated third-party complaint phone line and email address.

Review of archival material at the Catholic Center, included bishop and senior leadership files, legal correspondence, litigation files and previously collected data from court proceedings. All relevant files and computer files were electronically scanned/imaged and electronically analyzed using criteria relevant to the scope of the investigation.

Research for the report also included the capture of electronically stored information on the diocese email system, website, cloud storage system and personal devices.

Following the data collection phase, the investigation entered the review and analysis phase. The judge’s team

retained nationally recognized data-analytic experts whose software has the ability to review and analyze in a fraction of the time the massive amount of data, both electronic and paper, that human review would require.

While the diocese awaits the report it has also taken steps of its own by continuing to update its list of credibly accused priests. On November 1, 2018, the diocese issued a financial report on settlement amounts for past claims of clergy sexual abuse of minors from the establishment of the diocese to date. The report included sources from which funds were obtained to settle claims and provide an account of the financial support currently given to any priest who has been accused of sexual abuse of a minor and who is currently on administrative leave or has been laicized.

It has also continued to update its list of credibly accused priests and the names of all priests for whom settlements were paid. In a letter published on March 22, 2019, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano provides information on the reorganization and addition of new names to the diocesan list of credibly accused

clergy and a complete list of clergy on whose behalf settlements have been paid.

The diocese has published information on its website regarding credibly accused clergy dating back to 2002. In October 2015, the diocese organized this information into a single list of credibly accused priests on its website, which it has continued to update as new information becomes available.

“I believe that the Church is facing a moment of crisis that demands honesty and repentance from the bishops and decisive action to ensure that these failures will never happen again,” Bishop Caggiano said. “My hope is that the judge’s report will begin to heal the wounds that we feel and address the legitimate desire for real change that restores confidence in every level of leadership,” he said.

(To learn more about the diocesan response to sexual abuse including an update list of credibly accused and financial settlements, please visit the Diocese of Bridgeport’s Pledge to Protect website.) ■



# The promise of together.

**Danbury Hospital and Norwalk Hospital  
are now part of Nuvance Health.**

At Nuvance Health, we're rethinking your healthcare experience with you and your family in mind. We let our curiosity guide us, asking the right questions, and discovering what matters to you. We're finding new ways to fit into your life, with options for care you can trust. We invite you to experience that promise for yourself.

[nuvancehealth.org](http://nuvancehealth.org)

© Nuvance Health

# School News

## Diocesan schools name new principals

By ELIZABETH CLYONS

**BRIDGEPORT**—Dr. Cheeseman, superintendent of schools has named new principals for eight elementary schools and three high schools for the 2019/20 school year.

**Mr. Louis Howe, Jr.,**  
*Principal at St. Joseph School,  
Danbury*

Mr. Howe has been work-



ing in Catholic Education for over 15 years. From 2007-2017 he was director of campus ministry and taught theology at Holy Cross High School in Waterbury. Feeling called to a ministry in administration, he was appointed as principal of St. Anthony School in Winsted. Having spent two years as their administrator, he once again answered God's call by heading down to Danbury to serve the St. Joseph School community. Mr. Howe is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Hartford and writing his dissertation on Novice Catholic school principals with the hope of completing it by the end of the year. "It is truly a gift from God to be able to evangelize to our young people and bring them closer in their relationship with Jesus," Howe says. "I have been married to my wife Ann for



16 years and we have two beautiful girls, Madison and Alexis, and I look forward to serving the Diocese of Bridgeport and the St. Joseph School community."

**Mrs. Melissa Warner,**  
*Principal at St. Mark School,  
Stratford*

Mrs. Warner comes to St. Mark School from St. Raphael Catholic School in Bridgeport, after previously serving in the public school system for almost

10 years where she taught in both elementary and middle school grades. Though this is her first principalship, Mrs. Warner has a proven record of leadership as a teacher-leader to whom many administrative responsibilities were given. She is especially effective in the areas of curriculum development, teacher mentoring, literacy coaching and leading other teachers in the use of data to inform instruction. As a child Mrs. Warner attended Catholic Elementary School in Waterbury. She is a woman of faith who will work tirelessly to form in faith the hearts and minds of the students at our incredible school. Mrs. Warner and her husband Bradley reside in Shelton with their two children, ages six and three. The Warner Family are parishioners of St. Margaret Mary Church in Shelton.

**Ms. Kate McDonald,**  
*Principal at St. Mary School, Bethel*  
Ms. McDonald is a Bethel resident and a parishioner of St. Mary Church. Along with her

Ms. Camille Figluizzi has come full circle—after having had a K-12 Catholic education, she is back in the Catholic school system as principal of Kolbe Cathedral High School. She holds a bachelor's degree in special education as well as a master's and



6th-year diploma from Fairfield University. Ms. Figluizzi was an educator and administrator at Stamford Public Schools for 37 years. "The Kolbe community is warm and welcoming," says Figluizzi, "I am looking forward to doing great things!"

**Ms. Cheryl Tokarski,**  
*Principal at St. Augustine Academy,  
Bridgeport*

Ms. Cheryl Tokarski has been announced as the new principal of The Catholic Academy of Bridgeport—St. Augustine Academy. She holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering as well as an executive MBA, both from UConn. After a career in software development and project management working at GE, Dana Corporation and Pitney Bowes as well as running her own



husband, John, she has raised two daughters in Bethel. She joined the St. Mary School community in 2001 as the fifth-grade teacher. After 13 years in fifth-grade, she was asked by Sister Anne to move to the Middle School classes where he taught math, science and religion. For the past five years, she has been the middle school science teacher, STEM teacher for grades K-5 and the 8th-grade religion teacher. Additionally, for the last several years she served as the assistant principal. "I have a strong commitment to and love for St. Mary School and Catholic education," says Ms. McDonald.



software consulting firm, Cheryl made the transition into education. For seven years she taught math and computer science in the middle and upper schools at Chase Collegiate School in Waterbury and served as the pre-K-12 math department chair for five of those

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

## ALL SOULS DAY MASS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2019 (at 6 locations) 9:00 am, rain or shine

*This Mass will be offered for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed. Catholics are encouraged that day to pray that all those who have died may rest in the peace of Christ.*

### ST. PETER CEMETERY

71 Lake Avenue Ext., Danbury  
Principal Celebrant: **Father Peter Towsley**

### GATE OF HEAVEN CEMETERY

1056 Daniels Farm Road, Trumbull  
Principal Celebrant: **Father Joseph A. Marcello**

### ST. MICHAEL CEMETERY

2205 Stratford Avenue, Stratford  
Principal Celebrant: **Father Peter Adamski**

### ST. JOHN CEMETERY

25 Camp Avenue, Darien  
Principal Celebrant: **TBD**

### ST. JOHN - ST. MARY CEMETERY

223 Richards Avenue, Norwalk  
Principal Celebrant: **TBD**

### ST. MARY - PUTNAM CEMETERY

399 North Street, Greenwich  
Principal Celebrant: **Bishop Frank J. Caggiano**

**LIVE STREAMING** of Bishop Caggiano, follow us on facebook: [facebook.com/bridgeportdiocese](https://facebook.com/bridgeportdiocese)



**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
ON THIS EVENT  
PLEASE CONTACT:  
ED TAMIMI 203-814-2286  
or ETAMIMI@DIOBPT.ORG**



# Parish News

## St. Jude Italian Fest: Creating Community

By EMILY CLARK

**MONROE**—St. Jude Church in Monroe welcomed local residents and parishioners to their 29th annual Italian Fest on August 21-24. Despite a rainout on Wednesday evening, the event continued throughout the rest of the weekend with good weather and a great turnout, making this festival a success for all involved.

Music, raffles and games entertained festival goers as they enjoyed amusement rides such as the traditional Ferris wheel, Cobra Kiddie Roller Coaster and Wacky Shack Funhouse from Stewart Amusement and danced to classics like “Rock Around the Clock” from deejay JMG Music and Entertainment and local band The Four of Us. A 50-50 raffle and additional drawings of a cruise for two to Bermuda, a large screen TV and an IPad beckoned crowds to the fields behind the church to

greet friends and neighbors in the spirit of fellowship.

“This event really builds community,” said Father Henry Hoffman, pastor of St. Jude. “In addition to our bonding as a parish family during the festival, we also draw patrons from the neighboring towns to come to the Holy Ground that is St. Jude Parish.”

It is this sense of community and friendship that has continued to draw volunteers and attendees to this major parish fundraiser for decades. For some, this is not only the 29th year for the festival, but the 29th year for their involvement. Longtime parishioner Pete Lucia, who co-chairs the Italian Fest along with Paul Seperack, said some of the same people help out every year.

“They look forward to it, and it’s worked for 29 years thanks to the volunteers,” he added. “They run around, setting up and taking



ITALIAN FEST AT ST. JUDE PARISH—Authentic Italian food topped off a festival including music, raffles, games and amusement rides at the 29th annual St. Jude Italian Fest held at the end of August. The three-day event brings the entire parish family and members of neighboring communities together!

down which makes it easier for the rest of us. Without them, we couldn’t do this.”

Parishioner Diane Bourdeau has enjoyed volunteering for years. “It’s a great time for fellowship,” she said. “You see people at church and now you can put a name to a face.”

Though the festival has grown since its inception in the late 1980s, the theme has always been authentically Italian with traditional foods from local vendors. This year,

Jennie’s Pizzeria in Monroe, Angela Mia Italian Pastries in Norwalk, and Micalizzi’s Italian Ice in Bridgeport offered all the favorites. With strands of Dean Martin’s “That’s Amore” and Frank Sinatra’s “Summer Wind” serenading them, patrons balanced plates of chicken parmesan, penne a la vodka, and pizza fritta then settled under a huge dining tent to enjoy conversation and community.

“It’s like if you grew up in a big Italian family and went to

Grandma’s for Sunday dinner,” said Lucia. “We invite everyone to come and sit and be a family together.” As no family dinner is complete without dessert, anyone still hungry was welcomed to choose from trays of cannolis and cheesecakes, cookies and ice creams under tents staffed by volunteers ready to assist.

Those volunteers and the teamwork they encourage have impressed Father Hoffman in his first year as pastor. “I have been truly amazed at the amount of organization among the army of parishioners who volunteer to make this festival possible. As pastor, I have a responsibility to build community, and this is one tremendous community builder.”

In addition to the focus on community, the parish also benefits financially. Proceeds from this annual event go toward capital expenses and repairs, said Lucia. While funds from previous Italian Fests have assisted in building the social hall and rectory, this year’s funds will be used for general maintenance.

“And when it’s over,” Lucia added, “we start planning for next year.” ■

## Outdoor Stations of the Cross installed



**TRUMBULL**—Father Christopher Samele is proud to announce the completion of St. Stephen Parish outdoor Stations of the Cross. People may now visit the beautiful stations placed in the woods behind the church. A wide path leads you through the story of the crucifixion on this serene path. This project was made possible by the efforts of the St. Stephen Men’s Club who cleared the path in the woods and the

Women’s Club who donated the stations. Benches will be placed along the path to rest on and meditate—a truly lovely experience for all to visit. ■

ACADEMY OF OUR LADY OF MERCY

## Lauralton Hall

### Open House October 6 Entrance Exam October 19



**The LH Difference:**

- All girls since 1905
- Mercy-inspired learning, service, leadership
- Catholic tradition
- Independent
- Students from 40+ towns

[LauraltonHall.org/visit](http://LauraltonHall.org/visit)

200 High Street, Milford, CT 06460 / 203.877.2786

# Leadership Institute

## A conversation on Homebound Communion

By ELIZABETH CLYONS

**BRIDGEPORT**—On a recent Saturday morning at the Catholic Center, The Leadership Institute welcomed about a hundred people from parishes all around the diocese for a conversation with those who bring Holy Communion to the sick and/or homebound.

Patrick Donovan, director of The Leadership Institute explained that this conversation was the direct result of the over 80 face-to-face sessions for liturgical ministers. “One of the questions that consistently came up was the appropriate way to distribute Holy Communion to those who are unable to join the parish community at Mass each Sunday,” said Donovan.

“It was moving to see how many people wanted to make sure their loved ones did not miss receiving our Lord in the Eucharist simply because their living arrangements had changed. The idea for this workshop was born from those conversations,” Donovan said.

Deacon Tim Bolton, manager of pastoral care at St. Vincent’s Hospital spoke to the gathered and

raised the question, “When we accompany someone, who are we accompanying, who are we visiting, who are we with?” He explained, “When we give of ourselves freely to another, we are visiting Christ.”

Deacon Bolton asked, “What do you think happens in the heart of God when you make yourself

**“When we give  
of ourselves freely  
to another, we are  
visiting Christ.”**

available to him...when you take the time to be with another human being? How do you think Jesus feels when you visit him? That is what you are doing...and God bless you,” he addressed the gathered.

He gave the group reassurance for the moments that they might not feel adequate in serving, saying, “If you don’t think you have the right skill set, who is telling you that? Does your God tell you who you’re not or who you are?”

Deacon Bolton explained that

he uses a mantra to center himself before visiting patients at the hospital. “At the threshold of the door I pray, ‘Oh God come to my assistance, Lord make haste to help me’(Psalm 69). It puts God in charge and reminds me whose work I’m doing,” he said.

“When we draw near with tender love to those in need of care, we bring hope and God’s smile to the contradictions of the world,” Deacon Bolton said, quoting Pope Francis’ message on the 22nd World Day of the Sick. “When generous devotion to others becomes the hallmark of our actions, we give way to the Heart of Christ and bask in its warmth, and thus contribute to the coming of God’s Kingdom.”

The conversation also included best practices for those who bring Holy Communion to the sick and/or homebound, Formation requirements, connecting patients to the parish and HIPPA guidelines.

All who attended received a 2019-2020 copy of The Catholic Handbook for Visiting the Sick and Homebound, the essential resource for lay ministers of care, especially Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

This portable, annual resource has been updated to include all the official rites a lay minister will need from the Book of Blessings and Pastoral Care of the Sick: Rites of Anointing and Viaticum to bring Holy Communion, as well as to pray and share the



**DEACON TIM BOLTON**—“When we give of ourselves freely to another, we are visiting Christ,” said Deacon Tim Bolton, manager of pastoral care at St. Vincent’s Medical Center, to about 100 people who bring Holy Communion to the sick and homebound throughout the diocese.

Gospel with those who cannot regularly worship with their parish community. The book includes all the official rites an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion will need, as well as all weekly readings that can be used when bringing Holy Communion to the sick and homebound.

Those who have the honor of distributing Holy Communion to those who cannot be at Mass on Sunday should, according to the Norms Governing Liturgical Ministries, receive a mandate from the bishop and Donovan explained that The Leadership Institute could aid in the process for those who were not already enrolled in formation.

**Update on Liturgical Norms**  
The Leadership Institute has

recently announced that the first wave of mandates (numbering 3,500, following the 80+ face-to-face sessions) have been signed by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano and are ready for distribution to parishes.

These mandates include anyone who successfully completed the formation process by June 30. Those who have completed formation since that time will be distributed in the coming weeks.

Each parish is asked to bless all liturgical ministers during a Mass between now and the end of September and to distribute the mandates as part of the blessing. Formation for new liturgical ministers will be available online in the coming days.

(For more information visit [formationreimagined.org](http://formationreimagined.org)) ■

### St. Ann Melkite Catholic Church

A Catholic Church of the Byzantine Tradition

**Sunday Divine Liturgy 10am**

Feast Days 7pm

**The difference  
is worth the drive.**

info@stanndanbury.org 203-743-5119  
181 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury



### Polish Aid

*Home Care Agency*

#### Providing:

Nannies • Homecare  
Cooking • Housekeeping  
Companions  
Live-in services are available



860.229.6611 | fax 860.229.6613

[www.polishaidhomecare.com](http://www.polishaidhomecare.com) | Polish Aid Homecare LLC

Monday- Friday 10 am-5 pm; Saturday 10 am-2 pm

310 Broad Street, New Britain, Connecticut 06053

## Decree Modifying Deaneries

**The Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano**

*By the Grace of God and the Authority of the Apostolic See  
Bishop of Bridgeport*

### DECREE MODIFYING SEAT OF WISDOM DEANERY AND QUEEN ASSUMED INTO HEAVEN DEANERY

Canon 374 §2 establishes that: To foster pastoral care by means of common action, several neighboring parishes can be joined together in special groups, such as Vicariates Forane. These vicariates are denominated Deaneries in the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Upon receiving a request from the Pastor of Notre Dame Parish to transfer to the neighboring deanery, and, having consulted with the Deans of the respective deaneries, and, having weighed the pastoral reasons for modification, I, Most Rev. Frank J. Caggiano, Bishop of Bridgeport, do hereby modify the following Deaneries:

Seat of Wisdom Deanery will be modified so as to exclude Notre Dame Parish.

Queen Assumed into Heaven Deanery will be modified so as to include Notre Dame Parish.

This decree takes effect as of its signing.

Given this 31st day of July, 2019, the Feast of Saint Ignatius Loyola, at the Catholic Center of the Diocese of Bridgeport.



# Sisters of Life

## Eleven women profess vows

By JOE PISANI

STAMFORD—Eleven women with backgrounds in medicine, engineering, fashion, nutritional health, marketing and theology, shared a common bond Sunday when they professed their first vows of poverty, chastity, obedience and to protect and enhance the sacredness of human life as Sisters of Life.

After two years in the novitiate in Suffern, N.Y., they chose to leave behind what the world offers to give their whole lives to God.

The sisters who professed their vows ranged in age from 24 through 35 years old. Among the group is a physician, a fashion designer, a youth worker, a recreation therapist, a dietitian, a missionary, a journalist, a computer engineer, and an accountant.

Several hundred people filled the Church of the Holy Spirit for the Mass of Profession, celebrated by Bishop Richard G. Henning, auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, N.Y., who said, "This is a most privileged moment to be with you here today as you offer yourselves in love and trust to God through Our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a beautiful gift to all of us and to the Church."

He told them, "There are few in our culture that will really understand the nature of the gift you give today to the Church and for others. Even within the Church, we struggle to live this mystery of grace and to respond fully to the calling and give ourselves

completely in love and trust."

During his homily, Bishop Henning told them they live in extraordinarily difficult times with opposition from without and division within the Church, and said, "I hope and pray that your devotion to the Eucharist and your participation in the Eucharist will bring from your heart the same love you feel today for the Lord, the same response, the same commitment." He urged them to be like chalices, "vessels set aside for the things of God and only for the things of God."

As a sign of their religious consecration, each Sister received a silver medal of the institute's patroness, the Madonna of the Streets, and a blue band to be worn across the front of the veil.

At the conclusion, Bishop Henning thanked the families, the Sisters and Mother Agnes Mary Donovan, the superior general, and said, "You have guided them, informed them and inspired them and helped them to respond so beautifully to the call of the Lord.... God bless the work you do."

Commenting on the 11 women who professed their first vows, Mother Agnes, who was one of the five founding sisters with the late Cardinal John O'Connor, said, "With each one of these 11 today, there is an action of God. There is no other explanation. We have an abundant God...and he still talks to the young."

Mother Agnes, who has been a

Sister of Life since 1991, has called it "an adventure with God" and recalled Cardinal O'Connor's commitment to the order, which was his vision. She had been a psychology professor teaching graduate students at Columbia University's Teachers College when she heard Cardinal O'Connor preach at St. Patrick's Cathedral. He mentioned his desire to form a religious order dedicated to protecting and enhancing the sacredness of human life. And she followed the call.

Sister Mary Gabriel, the novice director, has accompanied the newly professed sisters during their time in the novitiate, integrating them into the religious life so their vocations are confirmed and each has a deep sense of her identity as a daughter and spouse of Christ.

"I see Jesus and the Holy Spirit walking through the hallways of these women's minds and hearts," she said. "It convinces me so deeply how much he desires that every single person knows his love and that he has a personal investment in every single detail of their lives. We are never alone and we can trust him completely. I can see that transformation so powerfully in these women...that is how God works."

The Sisters of Life operate the Villa Maria Guadalupe Retreat Center in Stamford in cooperation with the Knights of Columbus. Their foundational belief is: "We believe every person is valuable and sacred. We believe that every person is good, loved, unique and



FIRST VOWS OF POVERTY, CHASTITY AND OBEDIENCE—Eleven women from around the country professed First Vows recently before hundreds who filled the Church of the Holy Spirit in Stamford for Mass. Each Sister received a silver medal of the Madonna of the Streets and a blue band to be worn across the front of the veil.

unrepeatable. We believe that every person's life has deep meaning, purpose and worth. In fact, we give our lives for that truth."

"I find myself really inspired by the women who are professing," Sister Mary Gabriel said. "The quality of their hearts and their love and their integrity is so impressive that it inspires me and

gives me hope. It is important for the Church to know during a necessary time of cleansing that the Lord is at work and calling people—and really beautiful young and capable women."

At the conclusion of the Mass, Mother Agnes called each sister forward and announced their first missions. ■

**THE Journey BEGINS HERE**

Come and explore a truly exceptional option for your children. Authentic Faith, challenging academics and a community that prepares you for life.

**THE CATHOLIC ACADEMY  
OF STAMFORD**

#### OPEN HOUSE

Lower School Pre-K 3–5    1186 Newfield Ave.  
Sunday, Oct 6, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Upper School Grades 6–8    926 Newfield Ave.  
Wednesday, Oct 9, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Contact Mary Margarone, Admissions at 203.322.6505  
**Financial Aid Available**

## Virtual Pilgrimage comes to Stamford September 21

By JOE PISANI

David D'Andrea believes God has blessed him with miracles in his life. He was cured of polio as a child. He overcame the trauma of clerical sex abuse. And he survived stage 3 cancer, which was diagnosed in 2014.

He credits his recovery to Our Lady of Lourdes through the efforts of his cousin, Monsignor Joseph Giandurco, pastor of St. Patrick's in Yorktown Heights, NY, who celebrated a healing Mass for

him and brought holy water from Lourdes to bless him when he began his treatment for cancer.

D'Andrea still has that bottle of holy water and continues to share it with others who are suffering or ill. And while he has never gone on a pilgrimage to Lourdes, he knows Our Lady was instrumental in his recovery.

For those who need a physical or spiritual healing but cannot travel to France, D'Andrea reached out to bring the Lourdes experience to the Diocese of Bridgeport. A "Lourdes Virtual

Pilgrimage Experience" will be held Saturday, September 21 at 1 pm at St. Mary Church on 566 Elm Street in Stamford. Bishop Frank J. Caggiano will attend and offer a Eucharistic blessing.

Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers will coordinate the program, which will feature a candlelight rosary, holy water from the shrine and rocks from the grotto at Massabielle, where the Blessed

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

## EDITORIAL

# Accountability Report

The "Clerical Sexual Abuse Accountability Report," commissioned last September by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano and led by Retired Superior Court Judge Robert Holzberg is due for release later this month.

Almost a year in the making, the independent report is believed to be the first in the nation in which a diocese has voluntarily opened up its records to an independent third party. Judge Holzberg, who is a partner in the law firm of Pullman & Comley LLC of Hartford and Bridgeport, has served as lead investigator and counsel in this work.

Throughout his investigation Holzberg, a Middletown resident, has had complete and unrestricted access to all diocesan files, records and archives dating from 1953, when the diocese was founded, to the present, along with the opportunity to interview diocesan clergy, administrators, abuse survivors, outside counsel and experts, interested parishioners and former and current employees with information relevant to his inquiry.

The report will address sexual abuse of minors by clergy in the Diocese of Bridgeport, along with the response of Church leadership to that abuse. It will also contain recommendations to the bishop to ensure a safe environment within the Church here in the diocese and eliminate the risk of future abuse.

It is hoped that the report will bring a strong measure of justice, healing and truth telling to victims and survivors and also be the beginning of closure for all of those affected by the abuse crisis.

The public release of the report on clerical abuse is also very much a reflection on the leadership modeled by Bishop Caggiano, who had the vision and courage to demand complete accountability and transparency. This has led the way to the many pastoral and administrative initiatives he has launched to provide a complete accounting and to rebuild trust.

The report will be published in its entirety online on the diocesan website ([www.bridgeportdiocese.com](http://www.bridgeportdiocese.com)), and a summary of the extensive document will be provided in the October issue of *Fairfield County Catholic*.

## We Stand with Christ

The response to the "We Stand With Christ" capital campaign brings us to a remarkable moment in the history of the diocese. The campaign recently soared over its \$75 million goal to a record \$98.4 million in pledges that will support works of faith, charity and Catholic education both now and in the future.

The response is encouraging, but the capital campaign is far from over. In the coming months, donors will be redeeming their pledges, and parishes that have not begun or completed the campaign will be participating.

When Bishop Caggiano convened the fourth diocesan synod in 2014, he urged the entire diocesan family to come together to work for change and renewal that engages our youth, welcomes back those who have left the Church, and evangelizes through vibrant and loving communities of faith.

The bishop cast his words as a generational challenge, noting that each generation must come forward with the building blocks of faith to pass it on to those who will follow. He reminded us that the Church was built on the "shoulders of giants" both in our own diocese and in witness of our saints and martyrs.

That the success of the campaign has come at a time of great crisis and challenge within the Church is even more reassuring. It is testimony to the generosity of those who have contributed, and to the deep faith of the diocese.

In asking us all to "Stand With Christ," the bishop said there are no "stands-ins" for charity, and he urged everyone to give sacrificially within their means to build the family of faith in Fairfield County. Our deepest thanks to thousands who have responded in that spirit. Please join them. If you haven't contributed, there is still time.

(For more information visit: [www.westandwithchrist.org](http://www.westandwithchrist.org).)

## EDITOR'S CHOICE

### First Day of School



GREENWICH—A student from Greenwich Catholic School gets a warm hello from Principal Patrice Kopas on her first day back at school, one of the many happy greeting this week, as all 26 of our diocesan schools are back in session for the 2019/20 academic year! With over 8,000 students enrolled throughout the diocese, it is shaping up to be a great one.

### Communications Survey

Many thanks to the hundreds of readers who took the time to respond to Communications Survey included in the last issue, which asked for your thoughts on *Fairfield County Catholic*, the diocesan website and social media. The survey was designed to give the diocese a better understanding of our readers, the format in which they prefer to receive information and the effectiveness of communications in celebrating the faith and further engaging people with their parishes and diocesan activities. Answers and comments from the survey are being tabulated and analyzed.

*(The results will be shared in the October issue of *Fairfield County Catholic* and online the diocesan website at: [www.bridgeportdiocese.com](http://www.bridgeportdiocese.com).)*



## CLERGY APPOINTMENTS



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

#### PASTOR

MONSIGNOR KEVIN T. ROYAL, from Pastor, Holy Spirit Parish, Stamford, to Pastor, Saint Mary Parish, Ridgefield. Effective July 31.

#### PAROCHIAL ADMINISTRATOR

FATHER LUKE P. SUAREZ, from Parochial Vicar, Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, Trumbull, to Parochial Administrator, Holy Spirit Parish, Stamford. Effective July 31.

#### DEAN

FATHER JOSEPH A. PRINCE, to Dean, Seat of Wisdom Deanery. Father Prince will remain Pastor, Saint Elizabeth Seton Parish, Ridgefield. Effective July 31.

MONSIGNOR WILLIAM J. SCHEYD, P.A., to Dean, Cause of Our Joy Deanery. Monsignor Scheyd will remain Episcopal Vicar for Senior Priests. Effective July 31.

#### CHAPLAIN

FATHER ROBERT M. KINNALLY, to Diocesan Scout Chaplain for the Connecticut Yankee Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Father Kinnally will remain Chancellor and Pastor, Saint Aloysius Parish, New Canaan. Effective July 1.

FATHER TERENCE P. WALSH, to Chaplain of the Society of Saint Stephen of the Diocese of Bridgeport. Father Walsh will remain Pastor, Christ the King Parish, Trumbull. Effective August 1.

#### RESIGNATION

MONSIGNOR LAURENCE R. BRONKIEWICZ, from Dean, Seat of Wisdom Deanery. Effective July 31.

#### RECTOR

FATHER MICHAEL P. NOVAJOSKY, to Rector of the

Cathedral of Saint Augustine, Bridgeport. Father Novajosky will remain Pastor and Dean. Effective back to June 30, 2018 when Father Novajosky became Pastor of The Cathedral Parish.

#### LEFT DIOCESE

FATHER SILVESTRU R. BALAN, from Parochial Vicar, Saint Leo Parish, Stamford, to home Archdiocese of Bucharest for sabbatical year. Effective September 1.

#### DEACON

DEACON LOUIS F. HOWE, SR., from Saint Joseph Parish, Danbury, to Saint Joseph Parish, Brookfield. Effective September 16.

*Monsignor Thomas W. Powers  
Vicar General  
September, 2019*

## FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC

### Office of Communications Diocese of Bridgeport

238 Jewett Avenue  
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06606-2892  
telephone | 203.416.1461  
fax | 203.374.2044  
email | [fcc@diobpt.org](mailto:fcc@diobpt.org)  
Web | [www.bridgeportdiocese.com](http://www.bridgeportdiocese.com)  
Facebook | [BridgeportDiocese](#)  
Twitter | [@diobpt](#)  
USPS no.: 12-117. Periodical postage paid at Bridgeport, CT 06601, and additional mailing offices.

#### Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano

*Publisher*

**Brian D. Wallace**  
*Executive Editor* [bdwallace@diobpt.org](mailto:bdwallace@diobpt.org)

**Elizabeth Clyons**  
*Writer/Editor* [elizabeth.clyons@diobpt.org](mailto:elizabeth.clyons@diobpt.org)

**Renée Stamatis**  
*Art Director* [rstamatis@diobpt.org](mailto:rstamatis@diobpt.org)

**Ralph Lazzaro**  
*Advertising Manager* [rlazzaro@diobpt.org](mailto:rlazzaro@diobpt.org)

**Brian A. Wallace**  
*Graphic Designer* [bwallace@diobpt.org](mailto:bwallace@diobpt.org)

**John Grosso**  
*Social Media Leader* [jgrossos@diobpt.org](mailto:jgrossos@diobpt.org)

**Ronnie Lazzaro**  
*Copy Editor (Consultant)*

#### Advertise

To place an ad, contact  
Ralph Lazzaro: 203.667.1622

#### Circulation

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

#### Annual Subscription Price

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

#### Postmaster

send address changes to:  
*Fairfield County Catholic*  
238 Jewett Avenue  
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06606-2892  
© Copyright 2019, Diocese of Bridgeport

# Editorial



## 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.*

I recently moved to a new apartment and it taught me a bit about furniture, which taught me a bit about people. I never had to buy my own furniture, so the process was a bit lost on me. My focus was on finding the best price. What I didn't realize is that quality is also a big factor.

I figured that wood was wood. But as my friend, my sister and I tried to build a piece of furniture that I ordered online and the "wood" split, I realized that there might be a big difference between what is real and what is fake.

In contrast, I had also

ordered a few pieces of furniture that were older, but refurbished. The original pieces were solid wood, but they were painted in a way that made them look beautiful.

This brand new piece looked nice on the outside, but it was made of something fake on the inside. While the older pieces may not have looked as nice on the outside, they were true, solid wood on the inside.

This made me think about our tendencies as humans to want to put on a façade to the world. If we follow all the rules of the Church and we say the

right prayers and look like we're doing what's right, then people will think we are good. But what does our heart look like? Is it real, solid and genuine or is it fake, pliable and easily broken?

In contrast, maybe our sin is visible on the outside. We're not proud of it, but we openly admit that we have failings. Maybe we struggle a bit with the rules; maybe we don't always get it right. But our heart is solid, we genuinely love God, do our best and strive to do what is right every day.

I don't know about you but I would rather go with the second option. When we acknowledge that we are human, we can make genuine connections through our openness and vulnerability. When our hearts are in the right place, versus looking "right" to the rest of the world, that is when true love of neighbor can occur. When we reach beyond the things that seem important to the real heart of the matter, true change can occur.

I think of Mary Magdalene.

Others knew of her sin, looking down on her for it, calling her unclean. But she was so very close to the heart of Jesus. She knew very much what it was like to be human, to have failings, and yet she was so very close to the Divine. She may not have been welcome at the temple, but she knelt at the feet of Jesus. And he loved her, ate with her, welcomed her and called her his own when others would have turned her away.

In a February 2015 homily, Pope Francis spoke to a group of Cardinals, referencing Jesus' act of healing a leper: "Jesus is not afraid of this kind of scandal! He does not think of the closed-minded who are scandalized even by a work of healing, scandalized before any kind of openness, by any action outside of their mental and spiritual boxes, by any caress or sign of tenderness which does not fit into their usual thinking and their ritual purity. He wanted to reinstate the outcast, to save those outside the camp (John 10)."

The Pope continued, "The way of the Church is not to condemn anyone for eternity; to pour out the balm of God's mercy on all those who ask for it with a sincere heart. The way of the Church is precisely to leave her four walls behind and to go out in search of those who are distant, those essentially on the 'outskirts' of life. It is to adopt fully God's own approach, to follow the Master who said: 'Those who are well have no need of the physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call, not the righteous but sinners' (Lk 5:31-32)."

This is the way I desire to be, the way that he calls us to be. The kind of open vulnerability that requires us to acknowledge our failings enough to be able to meet others where they are and accompany them on their path to Christ. I don't want to just look like I'm doing what is right on the outside. Rather, I want my heart to reflect that of Christ's, like a piece of furniture with inherent value.



## A DAD'S VIEW

By MATTHEW HENNESSEY

*Matthew Hennessey is a writer, husband, and father of five. Twitter: @matthennessey*

We had a nice little party. Invited some friends. Among our guests were the Freshies and the Frazzles.

The Freshies are a couple who are older than my wife and I by about a decade. The Frazzles are younger than us by about the same amount. We are all at different stages of the game. My wife and I enjoyed the glimpse that hanging with them gave us of days gone by—and days to come.

The Frazzles, as their fake name is meant to suggest, are still in the early stages of what social scientists call "family formation." They have two children, ages four

and two, and expect to have more. They are exhausted all the time. Nothing adds up and everything seems harder than it needs to be.

"Thank you so much for inviting us," a sincere Mrs. Frazzle told me while bending over to reattach her two-year-old's velcro sandal strap. "What a treat it is finally to be, you know, talking with adults."

She laughed, but I knew she really meant it. As I topped up her red wine I remembered just how desperate it was in the early days. The daily routine of bottles, naps, snacks, strollers, diapers, bedtime stories and midnight pharmacy trips felt like it would

never end. And then miraculously it did.

Our youngest is now in big-boy pants and (mostly) sleeping through the night. Our oldest squeezes in volunteer opportunities between texting her school friends and studying her Latin and biology. It feels like we've closed the book on that first chapter of family life—the one that leaves you feeling constantly frazzled.

Don't get me wrong: The current chapter has its challenges. But they're different. And we're better-rested.

The Freshies, as their fake name implies, are extremely well-rested. Their skin glows and their clothes are without stain. They appear to get regular haircuts. Mr. Freshie took delight in circling the outside of our house, remarking on its construction.

"I like the shingle work on your roof," he said, sipping a can of flavored sparkling water and shielding his eyes from the sun with his free hand. "Oh wow, you got three layers on there. That's unusual. A lotta towns

don't allow that."

I didn't know what he was talking about but I envied his interest. Shingles and roofs must be the kinds of things that really grab your attention when you no longer have to do two hours' worth of dish washing every night after dinner.

Two of the Freshies' three children have flown the coop. Only their extremely mellow 16 year-old still lives at home. They have nearly run their race. They have kept the faith.

"Do you miss your older sisters now that you're alone with your parents?" I asked young Ms. Freshie, the sole nesting daughter.

"Uh, no," she said. "Not really." "You aren't lonely?"

"Nope."

I turned to Mrs. Freshie, who was munching on a fruit plate.

"What about you?" I asked. "You must really miss having the older kids banging around the house." She wrinkled her nose and wobbled her head in the signal for "yes and no."

"Of course I miss them, but let's just say we've adjusted to

their absence," she said. The Freshies rested at noticeable ease, as if all—or most—of their troubles were behind them.

Gosh, I nearly forgot to mention the Fratties—the four young singletons we invited to provide what my wife called "age balance." The only thing weighing on them was where they would go for dinner. Yet they seemed charmed by us midlife people with our alien concerns. One day, perhaps, the Fratties will grow up, get married, and invite me to their own houses. Perhaps I will comment on their roof shingles.

After the party broke up my wife and I convened for the after-action report.

"What fun," she said. "The little Frazzle kids are so sweet. I could eat them up."

"Do you think we'll ever be able to sit back and enjoy a party as thoroughly as the Freshies did?" I asked.

"Probably," she said. "Though it's hard to picture."

I agreed. Then I got to work. All those dishes weren't going to wash themselves.

# Catholic Men's Conference

## Forge your path to holiness

By JOE PISANI

HARTFORD—"Forge Your Path to Holiness" is the theme of the 2019 Connecticut Catholic Men's Conference on Saturday, October 19 at St. Paul Catholic High School in Bristol.

The conference, which will feature several nationally known speakers, will open with a talk by Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt and conclude with a Vigil Mass celebrated by Archbishop Leonard P. Blair.

"We are all on a journey of life and the goal of life is intimacy with God. The goal is holiness—not just being a nice guy, a nice person, but truly to have a relationship with Christ," said Father James Sullivan, chaplain of the conference and rector of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Waterbury. "We

have seen the same old, same old for so long. A man is called to a deeper relationship. Religion isn't just for women and children. Holiness is a manly thing."

He believes the conference can give Catholic men the spiritual tools they need in a secular society and emphasizes the importance of the sacrament of reconciliation. Last year well over half of the almost 700 attendees went to confession. Some 21 priests were hearing confessions all day long, and Father Sullivan, alone, heard 30.

He said one of the challenges that men confront today is the radical individualism that modern society promotes. "We live in the world that keeps us from reaching out and living in community," he said. "But we are called to that. It is OK to be a man of faith and to be with 700 men worshipping



**FORGE YOUR PATH TO HOLINESS**—Catholic men throughout the state are invited to gather at upcoming Catholic Men's Conference set for October 19 at St Paul Catholic High School in Bristol. Last year, 700 men, including a delegation from the Diocese of Bridgeport, attended the event.

God together. Very often, men believe they can do it alone and blaze their own trail, but the truth is that we are made for family, we are made for community, we are made for friendship."

Father Sullivan urges men around the state "to resist the resistance that tells you to do everything else instead of carving out time for God."

He also encourages older men to invite young men to attend the conference: "They should reach out to their sons, their nephews, guys next to them in the pew and young men who are not even coming to church," he said.

This year, in addition to the talks and different sessions, the conference will feature some fun competitive events for the men, he said. For more information and to buy tickets, visit [www.ctcatholicmen.org](http://ctcatholicmen.org)

Speakers at the conference include:

Dan Burke, award-winning author, president of EWTN News and president of the Avila Foundation, the parent organization of the Avila Institute, whose mission is to draw Christians worldwide into deeper union with Christ through spiritual education and formation.

Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers gives lectures nationwide and conducts retreats and seminars at parishes and conferences. He has appeared on national and international radio programs, including Catholic Answers Live and Kresta in the Afternoon.

Father John Bartunek, a member of the Congregation of the Legionaries of Christ entered into full communion with the Church in 1991 from an evangelical Christian background. He was ordained in 2003 and earned his doctorate in moral theology in 2010. Prior to entering the priesthood, he was a professional actor

in Chicago. He provided support on the set of Mel Gibson's film "The Passion of Christ" and researched the book Inside the Passion.

Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt was appointed auxiliary bishop of Hartford on September 18, 2018 and ordained as bishop on October 18, 2018 by Archbishop Leonard P. Blair.

Father Jeffrey Thompson is the vocations coordinator for the Missionaries of the Holy Apostles.

Archbishop Leonard P. Blair was named the fifth Archbishop of Hartford on October 29, 2013.

Father James Sullivan has attended the conference since its first year and was appointed statewide Men's Conference chaplain in 2017. He is rector of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Waterbury. Earlier this year, he was honored by the Knights of Columbus with its 44th annual Father Michael J. McGivney Award for advancing the ideals embodied by their founder.

Master of ceremonies Sam Todzia has more than a decade of experience working with teenagers, including at-risk teens and those suffering from mental illnesses. In 2011 Sam and his brother Jon began the Catholic men's ministry Meat & Greet to bring together men of faith and strengthen them to live out their calling as Catholic men. In 2014 they founded Red Barn Ministries to expand their ministry and build up Catholic youth in New England. Todzia has a master's degree in theology from Holy Apostles College and Seminary.



**IMMACULATE  
HIGH SCHOOL**  
Respect • Responsibility • Reverence

*A circle of strength  
Founded on faith  
Preparing students  
for the future*

**FALL ADMISSIONS EVENTS**  
**Apply Today**  
[immaculatehs.org/apply](http://immaculatehs.org/apply)

**Open House**  
Sunday, Sept. 29 @ 11am  
[immaculatehs.org/apply](http://immaculatehs.org/apply)

**Placement Exams**  
Saturday, Oct. 26 & Nov. 9, 2019

**Mustang For A Day Visits**  
[immaculatehs.org/apply](http://immaculatehs.org/apply)





# Catholic Charities

## Room to Grow celebrates summer graduation

NORWALK—The clouds cleared and the rain subsided for the Room to Grow graduating class of 2019. This year Room to Grow hosted its largest graduating class yet—58 in total. The Norwalk preschool first started holding graduation ceremonies in 1995, welcoming parents and relatives to witness the milestone of children exiting preschool and entering kindergarten.

This year's event was complete with graduation caps to match the child's classroom theme color, entertainment from the school's music teacher Tom Weber, and a post-graduation lunch. Weber, a resident of Fairfield, strummed his guitar and sang out the names of each graduate as they walked up to receive their diploma.

The event was even attended by Norwalk Mayor Harry Rilling and his wife Lucia. Mrs. Rilling is an active member of the Room to Grow advisory council. She attends graduation each year and this year welcomed the families in Spanish.

## Paying it Forward

BRIDGEPORT—George Alberto has been involved in his local community and has been doing acts of charity for as long as he can remember. As a parishioner of Saint Patrick's Parish in Bridgeport and a member of the Knights of Columbus for Council 4716, volunteering has been part of his daily life especially since one of the directives of the Knights is to complete acts of charity.

He first started to assist the staff at the Thomas Merton Center in Bridgeport 15 years ago. Fellow parishioners of Saint Patrick's, Larry and Sharon Jones, invited him to serve lunch with them at the Merton Center and George has continued to do so ever since. The group from Saint Patrick's serves lunch at Merton the last Friday of every month. The Knights' council that he serves on has also completed many works of charity with Merton, including food drives for the soup kitchen, preparing Thanksgiving baskets and making monetary donations.

These acts of charity are normal for George, who says, "I personally believe in paying it forward and assisting those in need. I also work with other local charities and institutions such as the Sisters of Charity, the Kennedy Center, Home of the Brave and Saint Catherine's Academy."

George has such strong beliefs about paying it forward that he introduced his co-workers at Realty One Group Connect in Monroe to the Thomas Merton Center. In May 2019, a team from the office lead by owners/brokers Chris Bacoulis and John McBride helped plan and plant a vegetable garden. They also spent time organizing clothes and toiletries. In July, George informed his colleagues that Merton was in need of breakfast cereal. In just under a month and with help from outside businesses such as

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

Prior to the event, the teachers were busy preparing the students for the ceremony. In one classroom, teacher Caitlin Dudek was helping to put caps on students. While Caitlin is a new teacher at Room to Grow, she is very familiar with its concept. Caitlin graduated from the program in 1998. "I remember when this was me," said Dudek. "It doesn't seem that long ago, but I know it is." Once a student of the program, Dudek is now a teacher molding the young minds at the center.

Dudek is not the only former student to return to the center. Tatianna Santiago was a student at Room to Grow 24 years ago. Tatianna fondly remembers her time at Room to Grow, saying, "My grandmother would bring me here every morning and Nancy would be here to greet me. It was always a happy place and I had such happy memories of being here. That is why I wanted my daughter to come here." She returned to Room to Grow to enroll her daughter Gianna Kitt.



LARGEST GRADUATION CLASS EVER—A total of 58 preschoolers recent graduated from Room to Grown, a Catholic Charities program in Norwalk.

agency asking "what can we provide to help the students at Room to Grow?"

Another source of backpacks came from the Law Office of Robin P. Keller in Norwalk. Robin Keller also learned of the search for backpacks on social media and gathered her team to assist with the project. This was orchestrated by her legal administrative assistant Jennifer Steiner who helped to organize the supplies donated to go in the backpacks and purchased any additional fillers that the firm felt was needed. She was assisted

by local resident Danny McCauley who volunteered to help stuff the backpacks.

Additional backpacks were distributed at the Thomas Merton Center in Bridgeport and New Covenant Center in Stamford through their food pantries. Over 150 backpacks made their way to help students start off the school year with the supplies needed for success.

(For more information on Room to Grow Preschool visit their webpage at [www.ccfairfield.org/programs/room-to-grow-preschool](http://www.ccfairfield.org/programs/room-to-grow-preschool).) ■

## Discover St Joes!

**Open Houses**  
**October 6 & December 4**

**2-Day Entrance Exam**  
**Prep Course**  
**October 18-19**

**Entrance Exams**  
**(One-time test)**  
**October 26 or November 9**

**Application Deadline**  
**November 11**

**St Joseph High School**  
2320 Huntington Turnpike  
Trumbull, CT 06611  
(203) 378-9378 x308  
@SJCadets

[www.sjcadets.org](http://www.sjcadets.org)



# Thomas Merton Center

## Adler named new director

By AMY ZAJAC

BRIDGEPORT—Al Barber, president of Catholic Charities proudly announces the appointment of Craig Adler as the new director of the Thomas Merton Center. “Craig is a resident of Westport and will be joining the agency in early September. He comes with very impressive background including extensive financial and non-profit experience,” says Barber.

Most recently, he has been the fundraising director for the Norwalk Housing Authority Scholarship Foundation where he grew it from a breakeven financial position to having an 18 month surplus in one year and initiated a planned giving program. Adler also has experience with the National MS Foundation, the Connecticut Food Bank, the



House of Possibilities in Boston, the Westport Sunrise Rotary and many other non-profit agencies.

Adler attended the Indiana University Lily School of Fundraising in 2018 and was a fellow at the University of Connecticut Nonprofit Leadership Program. His finance career included positions at Greenwich Associates, C3 Capital LLC/WBB Securities, First Creek Capital in Westport, Credit Suisse and Daiwa Securities. He also speaks Japanese, Portuguese and Spanish.

Catholic Charities is blessed to add Craig Adler to its team and

feels he will be an asset to the Thomas Merton Center.

The Thomas Merton Center was founded in 1974 by a group of concerned individuals who saw a need for services to the economically disadvantaged people in the city of Bridgeport. As the times have changed and the needs of the people we serve have changed we have developed programs that address issues such as housing, nutritional needs, healthcare needs, parenting issues and youth at risk. Merton provides breakfast, lunch and day shelter to approximately 260 people each day Monday through Saturday. We serve about 85,000 meals a year.

(To learn more about the Thomas Merton Center, visit the program webpage at [www.themertoncenter.org](http://www.themertoncenter.org).) ■

## New Covenant Center Harvest Table

STAMFORD—On Thursday, November 14, New Covenant Center will hold its 9th Annual Harvest Table at The Italian Center in Stamford from 6 to 9 pm. Harvest Table is a premier fundraising event drawing over 300 attendees hailing from all over Fairfield County.

This fun-filled fundraiser will also feature a Market Place grazing with food sampling and demonstrations, and a silent auction. The event uses a mobile bidding and online ticketing platform that allows registered guests and interested non-guests to begin bidding online.

Full details on how to become an event sponsor or vendor for the Market Place, as well as registration for tickets, tables and the silent auction can be found at [nccharvesttable.givesmart.com](http://nccharvesttable.givesmart.com). As a sponsor, companies receive exposure through printed and digital materials, social media, on-site recognition and more! There is a variety of sponsorship opportunities with levels ranging from \$2,500 to over \$10,000. Sponsorship opportunities are available now, but tickets and tables will be on sale starting Friday, September 20.

The mission of New Covenant Center is to provide a nutritious meal to all those who are hungry. This is accomplished from their 8,000 sq. ft. facility located at 174 Richmond Hill in Stamford. The facility includes an efficient and modern kitchen, a welcoming dining area, expanded food storage area and refrigeration, a spacious food pantry area and additional space for other services. Stamford's one and only soup kitchen serves over 600,000 each year, providing meals twice a day, 365 days a year in its Café. An additional 100,000 meals are served from the Food Pantry, providing disadvantaged families with groceries, meat, vegetables and produce.

(For more information on Harvest Table, please go to [nccharvesttable.givesmart.com](http://nccharvesttable.givesmart.com) or contact Leisa Hinds Simpson at [lhinds-simpson@ccfc-ct.org](mailto:lhinds-simpson@ccfc-ct.org). To learn more about the services provided by New Covenant Center visit their webpage at [www.newcovenantcenter.org](http://www.newcovenantcenter.org).) ■



## Assumption Catholic School ENROLLING YEAR-ROUND

**THE LEADER IN PERSONALIZED LEARNING**

**Tour Tuesdays 9-11 am**  
**Scholarships Available**

**605 Stratfield Rd. Fairfield, CT** **PreK3-8**  
**203-334-6271** **[rsantoli@oloaffld.org](mailto:rsantoli@oloaffld.org)**  
**[www.assumptionfairfield.org](http://www.assumptionfairfield.org)**

**YOUR CHILD  
DESERVES  
SOMETHING  
MORE.**

**SAFETY.  
SUCCESS.  
SHARED VALUES.**

**CATHOLIC ACADEMY  
OF BRIDGEPORT**

**FIND OUT MORE!**  
Call 203-362-2990 or visit [www.catholicacademybridgeport.org](http://www.catholicacademybridgeport.org)  
Generous financial aid available.



# We stand with Christ

## Campaign hits \$98 million, surpassing original goal

BRIDGEPORT—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano recently announced that the diocesan capital campaign “We Stand With Christ” has reached \$90 million, surpassing its original goal of \$75 million and making it the largest and most successful campaign in the 65-year history of the diocese.

“We Stand With Christ is an overwhelming success and a testament to the generosity of the faithful in the Diocese of Bridgeport, along with the tireless efforts of our pastors and hundreds of volunteers,” Bishop Caggiano said.

The campaign, which began the fundraising phase a year ago after an eight-month planning phase, is still continuing. Of 59

\$25,000; and ten have pledged in excess of \$1 million.

Of the ten parishes that performed the best in achieving their goal, five were in Bridgeport. On average, the 12 Bridgeport parishes reached 110 percent of their goals—better than any city in the diocese.

“The We Stand With Christ campaign offers proof that people love their parishes and they are willing to make an investment in the Church and its mission even during these times of turmoil,” the bishop said. “For those who have not yet given, there is still time. Consider your donation an investment in the future of your parish and our diocese.”

He also praised the role of the

campaign. Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Danbury, which surpassed its goal, plans to add almost 90 parking spaces on parish-owned property to accommodate the large number of faithful who attend the six weekend Masses, according to the pastor, Father John Perez.

St. Margaret March Church in Shelton has completed work on its parish center, which will be dedicated by Bishop Caggiano in September. The center will have seven meeting rooms to accommodate catechism classes, parish ministries, community groups and church events. The parish reached 170 percent of its goal and as a result will receive 75 percent of the contributions above its initial target, said Father Ciprian Bejan.

Father Joseph Cervero, pastor of St. Patrick Church in Redding Ridge, said the campaign will help fund the renovation of the old St. Patrick Church built in 1880 and replaced by a new one in 2006. The renovations will provide a place for the youth ministry to meet, along with church and community groups, such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon and Safe Rides.

At Christ the King Church in Trumbull, Father Terrence Walsh will be able to replace the roof on the school building and do smaller repair projects. He hopes to undertake a renovation of the sanctuary in the near future.

Father Frank Hoffmann, pastor of St. John Church in Darien, is preparing for the parish’s 125th anniversary next year, and the campaign has allowed him to do some deferred maintenance in time for the celebration, including repairs to the slate roof on the church, refinishing the wooden floors, replanting on the grounds and refurbishing the pathways and entrances. He also foresees the need for a new parking lot.

As the centennial of St. Roch Church in Greenwich approaches, Father Carl McIntosh said there are plans to repoint the stonework of the church facade and bell tower and repair windows suffering from water damage.

The three diocesan Foundations

that will receive funds from We Stand With Christ are Foundations in Education, Foundations in Faith and Foundations in Charity. Each is overseen by a lay board and a third-party accounting firm that will provide a system of checks and balances.

There are nearly 40 lay trustees on the boards of Foundations in Education, Foundations in Charity

enrolled in 20 Catholic elementary schools in Fairfield County. In addition, Foundations will award \$150,000 in innovation and leadership grants. Last year, 24 grants were awarded.

**Foundations in Faith** was established to further the diocese’s mission to support its pastoral ministries and programs in religious education, evangeliza-



**“The We Stand With Christ campaign offers proof that people love their parishes and they are willing to make an investment in the Church...”**

parishes, 32 are actively working on the campaign, 10 of which will not start fundraising until 2020. The others are transitioning to the redemption phase of the campaign, which will entail collecting donations over the next five years.

The campaign has designated 50 percent of the funds raised for long-term needs of parishes, and the remaining 50 percent will be invested in diocesan ministries—Foundations in Education, Foundations in Faith and Foundations in Charity, three lay-run non-profits committed to Catholic education, faith formation and Catholic Charities of Fairfield County.

The We Stand With Christ campaign is led by Bishop 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 Reggie Norman, pastor of Our Lady of Fatima.

At this point in the campaign, of the \$98 million pledged, \$30 million has already been collected. More than 13,000 people have made donations; 700 donors have each pledged more than

pastors in moving the campaign forward and said they were the engines that drove the campaign, the spiritual guides and motivators. In many cases, they were also the ones who solicited gifts from the faithful, going out for meetings day and night to explain the needs of the parish and how the Foundations would benefit. Their efforts were augmented by the work of hundreds of lay and religious volunteers, who were fundamental to the success of We Stand With Christ. The donors, of course, were the ones who were instrumental in surpassing the original goal and hitting \$90 million.

Now that the redemption phase has begun, the campaign office has set up systems to make payments on pledges. Organizers stress that there will be a cost savings if donors fulfill their pledges electronically, which will help the campaign save on printing, postage and processing fees. Each donor will be able to select the frequency and mode of their reminders to make payments.

### Parish Projects

A number of parishes have already begun work on projects that are being funded by the capital

RENEWING THE DIOCESE—Thousands joined Bishop Frank J. Caggiano in the procession from St. Augustine Cathedral in Bridgeport through the downtown to Webster Bank Arena for the 2014 Synod Mass of Celebration. The “We Stand With Christ” capital campaign was launched to support the programs and initiatives recommended by the synod.

and Foundations in Faith, the three non-profit initiatives begun by Bishop Caggiano as a result of the diocesan synod to address the needs of the Church in Fairfield County in the areas of education, charity and pastoral ministries.

At the heart of those Foundations are three independent lay boards, dedicated to their missions and committed to overseeing the funds entrusted to them.

Bishop Caggiano has pointed to the importance of lay leadership in the Foundations, emphasizing the professional expertise they bring, along with their commitment to their faith and a heartfelt desire to serve and further the Church’s mission in the diocese.

**Foundations in Education** has as its goal the transformation of the diocese’s Catholic schools through scholarships and faculty innovation and leadership grants. This year, Foundations awarded more than \$2.7 million to 1,430 students—approximately 25 percent of those

tion, support for priests, deacons and seminarians along with special-needs ministries.

Foundations in Faith succeeds the Faith in the Future Fund, a not-for-profit endowment fund created in 1996 as a result of a fundraising campaign with a goal to support both education and pastoral ministries of the diocese. Faith in the Future has supported these ministries and is poised to grow and continue this work as Foundations in Faith.

The John Paul II Fund for religious education and youth ministry is overseen by a board of 13 trustees who helped establish criteria for the grant applications.

**Foundations in Charity** will provide the impetus for new programs for Catholic Charities of Fairfield County, one of the largest private non-profit human services providers in Connecticut with 30 programs that offer food, housing, behavioral health, adoption, immigration and family support services to the needy and vulnerable of all faiths.



# Foundations in Education director to be honored

By JOE PISANI

When Holly Doherty was a girl, her parents would send her on the city bus with her brothers and sisters into Boston for the Community Boating program, where they could sail on the Charles River for the summer for one dollar.

"It was the cheapest daycare available to my parents. We spent our youth there, and my best friends in life are people I met during those years," she recalls. Eventually, she began working for the program, making sails, manning the snack bar, teaching sailing to adults and running the junior program. By the time she was 24, she was named executive director of the program, which was largely underwritten by charitable donations.

Community Boating not only taught her sailing but also launched her career in philanthropy—a career that spanned several decades during which she worked for some of the finest schools in the country, the state's



HOLLY DOHERTY-LEMOINE

largest homeless services agency, Danbury Hospital and currently as executive director of Foundations in Education, a non-profit initiative created to assist the Diocese of Bridgeport's ongoing mission to support Catholic education in Fairfield County.

Holly Doherty-Lemoine, CFRE, was recently named the 2019 Best-of-Connecticut Outstanding Fundraising Professional by the Association of Fundraising Professionals and

will be honored at the group's annual conference on November 8, National Philanthropy Day, at the Trumbull Marriott and Conference Center.

"A lot of people come to fundraising and nonprofit management later in life as the second or third act," she says. "But I am one of the few raised in it." (She is also quick to point out that of the eight children of her parents, Ruth O'Brien and Col. Daniel J. Doherty, six were girls who were well-versed in selling Girl Scout cookies from an early age.)

"Having been raised among nonprofits, it became evident to me very early about the importance of the generosity of others," she said. "Philanthropy is people caring for people, for those who wouldn't otherwise be provided those opportunities. That boating program never would have happened if people didn't think it was important for inner city kids."

She attributes the success of Foundations in Education to that same sense of philanthropic concern for others, which she has

encountered in the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Doherty-Lemoine was appointed executive director of Foundations in 2016 by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, who said, "We have been blessed to have Holly as the inaugural director of Foundations in Education. Her work will constitute a true legacy to the young people of the diocese and Catholic educators who will benefit from the Foundation both now and in the future. She has brought great discipline, experience and faithful vision to her assignment. Her careful and professional stewardship has guided the Foundation in its inaugural days and has earned the confidence and respect of donors and all those who support this important mission."

"As executive director, she manages a staff and raises money while overseeing efforts to transform the Diocese's Catholic schools through scholarships and faculty innovation and leadership grants. This year,

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

# Foundations in Education grant applications open September 15

Foundations in Education, an independent, non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization committed to transforming lives through education, invites educators across Diocese of Bridgeport Catholic schools in Fairfield County to apply for grants through its 3rd Annual Innovation and Leadership Grant funding cycle.

According to Foundations' Executive Director, Holly Doherty-Lemoine, CFRE, "The Innovation Grants Program supports teachers' innovative projects for the classroom that may benefit multiple grade levels and will have long-term impact on student learning. The Leadership Grants Program promotes continuing professional education and leadership formation for current faculty," she added.

"Strong educators and inspiring innovative classrooms are essential to the success of our Catholic schools," remarked

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Steven Cheeseman. "Teachers are always looking for new creative ways to engage students and inspire them to learn."

The Foundation will accept proposals from September 15 through October 31, 2019.

The first cohort of awardees recently shared reports outlining the impact of grant projects implemented this past academic year.

"I am so grateful to have received a Foundations in Education grant that allowed me to pursue a visionary idea that might otherwise have been out of reach," exclaimed Adrienne Wilson at St. Thomas Aquinas School in Fairfield. "As both an educator and a parent at a Catholic school, I am highly encouraged to see investments being made in Catholic education that allow us to showcase excellence in academic rigor and pursuit of modern technologies."

The grant application, evaluation and reporting processes are available exclusively online via Foundations in Education's website, [www.foundationsineducation.org](http://www.foundationsineducation.org).

Catholic school educators are encouraged to apply online throughout the open application period September 15 through October 31. A grants committee will review and score all proposals and submit recommendations to the Foundation's Board of Trustees for approval. Grantees will be announced in early January and funding will be distributed in July for project implementation in the 2020-2021 academic year.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano and Foundations in Education will host a grants award reception to celebrate all awardees and their school principals at the Discovery Museum in Bridgeport during Catholic Schools Week in January.

Grant recipients are encouraged to share their project ideas

and outcomes with schools across the diocese, thereby promoting a broader opportunity for innovation throughout our school communities.

"These opportunities for collaboration, partnership and learning are key in ensuring Catholic education remains on the cutting edge and will transform our students into our next generation of thinkers, leaders and entrepreneurs," remarked Dr. Cheeseman. "We are grateful to Foundations in Education for providing the resources to fund these transformative initiatives."

Foundations in Education relies upon the generosity of donors to provide the funding for this competitive Innovation and Leadership grant program.

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

## Foundations in Education Board Members

**The Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano**  
Chair

**David J. Cappiello**  
Owner and President of Capitol Hill Group

**George Coleman**  
Early Childhood System Development Specialist

**R. Bradford Evans**  
Senior Advisor of Morgan Stanley

**Michael Hanlon, CPA**  
Treasurer - CFO of the Diocese of Bridgeport

**Lawrence Kudlow**  
National Economic Council Director

**Leslie Lopez, JD, CFRE**  
Director of Mission Advancement for Maryknoll Lay Missioners

**Andrea Maldon, CPA**  
Retired Managing Director of Internal Investor Services at Lone Pine Capital LLC

**Anne McCrory, ESQ.**  
Secretary - Chief Legal and Real Estate Officer of the Diocese of Bridgeport

**Thomas E. McInerney**  
Vice Chair - CEO and Co-founder of Bluff Point Associates

**Dr. Julia McNamara**  
President Emerita Albertus Magnus College

**Michele Mitola**  
Vice President, Strategic Planning and Development of Children's Scholarship Fund, NY

**Joseph Purcell**  
Managing Director of Morgan Stanley's Financial Sponsors Coverage Group

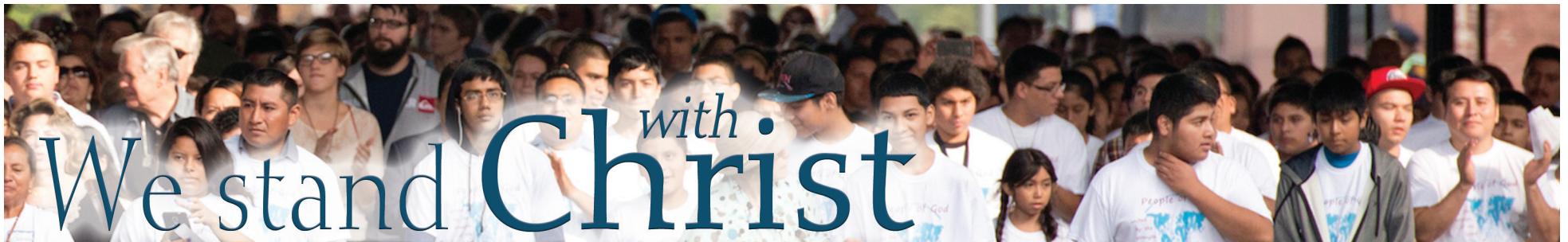
**Bernard E. Reidy**  
Managing Director and National Philanthropic Sales Executive for U.S. Trust, Bank of America Private Wealth Management

**Gerard D. Robilotti**  
Former President of Danbury Hospital, President of Robilotti Consulting

**Robert Scinto**  
CEO and Chairman of the Board of R.D. Scinto, Inc., Shelton, CT

**Michael Shea**  
Former Chairman for Global Imaging Systems

**Sister Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ**  
Provost for Education, Evangelization and Catechesis and President of Saint Thomas Seminary, Archdiocese of Hartford



# We stand with Christ Foundations in Charity moving forward

Foundations in Charity is the last of the three new diocesan foundations funded by the "We Stand with Christ" capital campaign to get off the ground. However with a newly constituted Board of Trustee under the direction of Al Barber, things are moving forward.

Barber, who has been at the helm of Catholic Charities since 2004, will step up to devote full time to his new role as Chairman of Foundations in Charity later this year. His first-hand experience of issues including poverty, behavioral health, hunger, and immigrations as long-time leader of Catholic Charities, makes him enthusiastic about embracing

the mission of Foundation in Charity.

"This is an absolutely great idea because if we do it right, it will take the fundraising pressure off of Catholic Charities, which can be a problem," he said. "A lot of the directors of our programs have to be involved in fundraising, and that is not their skill base. What we are hoping for is a \$10 million endowment for Foundations in Charity, which will fill in the gaps and let us do some exciting things."

Barber said the endowment, secured in Foundations in Charity, will provide a long-term source of funding to help sustain financial support for food, housing, mental health, adoption,

immigration and family services.

The funds will also meet the increasing needs of the poor and disenfranchised of Fairfield County who rely on Catholic Charities to offer counsel and assistance in the areas of behavioral health, disaster relief, homelessness, immigration services, hunger, and pregnancy and adoption.

Barber, who served as a business executive including tenure as President of CNBC and other corporate post, said he is excited about the new board because of the diverse talent, backgrounds and successful experience they bring to providing oversight and guidance to the new foundation.

As first Chairman of Foundations in Charity, Barber

said he is grateful that so many of Catholic Charities programs are well known and embraced by the people of the diocese. The agency's houses of hospitality such as Merton Center in Bridgeport and New Covenant Center in Stamford benefit from hundreds of volunteers and the loyalty of generations of donors.

Work is already underway to create a major fund raising event this Spring.

(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 visit the diocesan YouTube.)

## Foundations in Charity Board Members

**Mike Boyd**

*Member of New Covenant Center Council*

**Mike McNulty**

*Former CPA and CFA, Guggenheim Partners, Forest Investment and Price Waterhouse*

**Louise Gidez**

*Chair of Thomas Merton Center Council*

**Tony Fernandez**

*Independent Consultant and non-profit Board Director*

**Tom Kolenberg**

*First Vice President, Senior Financial Adviser, Merrill*

**Hugh McCrory**

*Chief Counsel for MetLife Investment Management (MIM)*

**John Danaher**

*Retired, Active member of Our Lady of Fatima*

**Margarita Pineda-Ucero**

*International Finance Corporation, Women Dignity Alliance*

# Foundations in Faith Bishop's Reception

BRIDGEPORT—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano will be announcing a few new and exciting grant opportunities at the Foundations in Faith Annual Bishop's Reception set for Wednesday, September 25th, from 4-6 pm St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Weston

"We look forward to welcoming the Religious Education, Youth Ministry and Faith Formation staff and volunteers, youth participants, seminarians, retired priests, educators, student leaders, Board of Trustees and their family members," said Kelly Weldon, Assistant to the Chairperson of Foundations in Faith.

Weldon said all 2019 Foundations in Faith grand recipients have been invited to the reception.

On May 23, the Board



of Trustees of Foundations in Faith and member of the St. John Paul II Fund Grant Review Committee recommended a total of \$115,000 in funding for religious education and youth ministry programs in parishes across the Diocese of Bridgeport. At the bishops request, priority was given to the projects or programs that demonstrate fresh new approaches that engage parish members in faith formation. The funds were distributed to recipients in August.

Responding to Bishop Caggiano's invitation to lifelong

formation, in February 2018, parishes were invited to reimagine faith formation at every level. During 2018, the funds inaugural year, 32 grants were awarded to parishes in the diocese.

In addition to the St. John Paul II Fund grants, three other funds received board approval for funding. The St. Charles Borromeo Fund distributed \$95,000 in awards for St. John Fisher Seminary, the Office of Vocations and Redemptoris Mater Diocesan Missionary Seminary. The St. John Vianney Fund, set up to support our retired priests, awarded \$40,000

to Queen of the Clergy retirement residence for priests, located in Stamford, Conn. The Elizabeth Ann Seton Fund distributed \$175,000 to support initiatives that provide special resources to our Catholic schools in order to keep tuition costs low and affordable to as many young people as possible.

Since its inception in 2018, numerous Grants and Awards totaling \$425,000 for Pastoral Care have been approved by the Foundations in Faith Board of Trustees

Foundations in Faith currently has a total of eight funds. Four are active and four will soon begin receiving funding from the We Stand With Christ Campaign.

(For more information and updates please visit: [www.foundationsinfaith.org](http://www.foundationsinfaith.org) or email: [kelly.weldon@diobpt.org](mailto:kelly.weldon@diobpt.org).)

## Foundations in Faith Board Members

**Alicia Carpenter-Cummings**  
*Finance Manager at Travelers*

**Lorraine Carrano**  
*Former Hospital Executive*

**Paul Cronin**

*National Director, KeyBank Dealer Finance Commercial Services  
National Director, KeyBank Business Capital*

**Michael Hanlon**

*CFO, Diocese of Bridgeport*

**Anne McCrory**

*Chief Legal & Real Estate Officer, Diocese of Bridgeport*

**Anthony Minopoli**

*President & Chief Investment Officer, Knights of Columbus*

**Daniel Mudd**

*Executive & Operating Partner  
Msgr. Thomas Powers  
Vicar General,  
Diocese of Bridgeport*

**Joe Sindelar**

*Founding Partner  
Crossbay Capital*

**Susan Stone**

*Member of the Strategic Planning Commission,  
Diocese of Bridgeport*

**Nicholas Yancelli**

*President of Malta Justice Initiative*



### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Help support religious education, evangelization, Deacons and Priests, seminarians, special needs ministries and more. Learn more about our eight funds.



### HISTORY

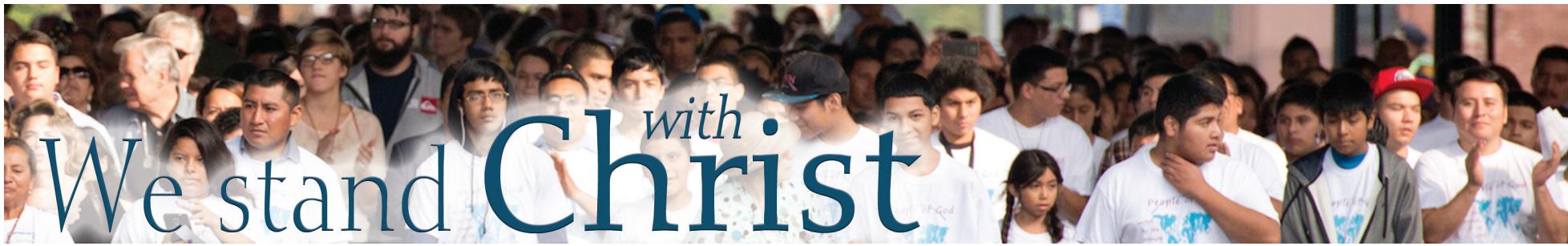
Foundations in Faith is the corporate successor to Faith in the Future fund. Learn more about the history of Foundations in Faith and what has led us to this important moment.



### GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Parishes and ministries have the opportunity to apply to receive grants to support programs in religious education, evangelization, as well as other pastoral initiatives and ministries.

Please visit: [www.foundationsinfaith.org](http://www.foundationsinfaith.org)



***St. Margaret Mary Parish surpasses its campaign goal***

## From Romania to Shelton, serving Christ

By JOE PISANI

SHELTON—In 2003, Father Ciprian Bejan came from Romania to begin three years of service in the Diocese of Bridgeport. He had been ordained in 2000 and assigned to a church in Bucharest when the new opportunity presented itself.

Then-Bishop William Lori had approached the Archbishop of Bucharest about the possibility of sending a priest here to experience life in America. After the fall of Communism, Romania had a surplus of priests, and the Archbishop was encouraging them to serve in other parts of the world, particularly Western Europe, where there was a shortage, along with Africa...and Fairfield County, Connecticut.

Sixteen years later, Father Ciprian has adapted to the U.S. culture and for the past five years has been pastor of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Church in Shelton, which he describes as “one of the most caring and connected Christian families” he has ever encountered.

“St. Margaret Mary feels like a family, and that is what it should be,” he says. “People who have been here a long time have a connectivity with one another and work together.”

The parish of 850 families recently confirmed his beliefs by surpassing its \$720,000 goal in the We Stand With Christ capital campaign and reaching \$1.2 million.

“These are hardworking people who are not rich people, and it was amazing the response to the campaign was so overwhelming,” Father said.

Funds from the campaign have been used to build a much-needed parish center that will benefit religious education programs and the many ministries and organizations in the parish. The center will be blessed by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano on September 7.

“This is for faith formation, for the children in the parish and their families,” Father said. “We want to be more efficient in passing the faith on to our children.” The multipurpose building will also accommodate other parish ministries, from the Knights



ST. MARGARET MARY PARISH, SHELTON—Under the enthusiastic leadership of the pastor, Father Ciprian Bejan, St. Margaret Mary Parish surpassed its \$720,000 goals and the funds are being used to build a much need parish center.

of Columbus to the Sanctuary Guild, the Parish Nursing program, the Respect Life ministry and groups for young people, men and women.

“I have been blessed with a great parish,” says Father Ciprian, who was incardinated into the diocese on the feast of St. Augustine in 2014. “The spirit here is special and the people have been very kind to me. The support has been great and a wonderful gift from God.”

St. Margaret Mary was established in 1963 by Bishop Walter W. Curtis, and the first Mass was celebrated in the gymnasium of Sunnyside School on River Road. The original parish school and church were sold to the city of Shelton in 1975, and a new church was erected and dedicated on June 27, 1976. Father Ciprian regularly corresponds with the second pastor, Father Philip Brady, who is approaching his 101st birthday and lives in upstate New York.

The youngest of 13 children born to Bernadette and Joseph Bejan, Father wanted to be a priest from a young age; however, growing up in Communist Romania presented challenges because the government limited the number of young men who could enter the seminary. With the fall of Communism in 1989, the seminary began accepting more candidates, and in 1990 at age 16, Ciprian Bejan entered the diocesan minor seminary, which was the equivalent of high school.

Father said that 85 percent of Romanians are Eastern Orthodox

and only five percent are Roman Catholic; however, in his hometown of Pildesti, they are 100 percent Catholic.

After 10 years of formation, he was ordained on June 24, 2000 for the Archdiocese of Bucharest and assigned to Sacred Heart Church, which served Romanian, French, English and Arabic Christians. While his parents were pleased with his decision to enter the priesthood, the separation from his family has not always been easy.

He came to the Diocese of

Bridgeport after Bishop Lori contacted the Archbishop of Bucharest, and his first assignment was at St. Mary Church in Stamford, followed by St. Andrew in Bridgeport and St. Michael in Greenwich, where he stayed for seven years. After a brief assignment as chaplain of Notre Dame High School, he was installed as pastor of St. Margaret Mary on September 15, 2014.

The first project he undertook was to renovate the interior of the church and move the tabernacle to the center of the sanctuary. A new crucifix from Italy was erected at the center of a triptych that includes Our Lady and St. Joseph. More statues were added to the church, along with a new pulpit, baptismal font and a raised marble floor in the sanctuary. The renovation, which took four months, was well-received by the parish.

“We wanted to bring more sacredness and beauty into the church,” he said.

With the construction of new housing developments in the area, Father says his goal is to attract more younger families. At the same time, several assisted living facilities and nursing homes have

buses that bring seniors to the Saturday Vigil Mass and Sunday morning at 10 am.

On weekends, Father Ciprian is assisted by Father Raymond Petrucci and Father Nello Barachini, who hears confession, along with Deacons Jeff Kingsley and David Sochacki.

Father has earned high praise from his congregation. John Kosturko, a lifelong parishioner who recalls going door-to-door seeking pledges for the new parish in the early 1960s, was one of three original Eucharistic ministers. He taught religious education for 19 years and has coordinated the Eucharistic ministers for the past 30 years. He and his wife Pierrette and their nine children were among the first parishioners during the early years of the church.

“My vocabulary is limited when I have to express how I feel about Father Ciprian,” Kosturko says. “It is unbelievable what he has done and accomplished in our parish. The congregation has grown and it is very noticeable. He has started more activities, and most important of all, he has brought people back to the church and back to the sacraments.” ■

### FOUNDATIONS IN EDUCATION FROM PAGE 16

Foundations awarded more than \$2.7 million to 1,430 students—approximately 25 percent of those enrolled in 20 Catholic elementary schools in Fairfield County. In addition, Foundations will award \$150,000 in innovation and leadership grants. Last year, 24 grants were awarded.”

“For me, access to education is critically important, and so much of what we do for Foundations is providing access to education,” Doherty-Lemoine said. “It is really quite powerful to see the impact that contributions have on the lives of these kids, first of all to provide them with an opportunity to be in a value-based education program. There is a lot going on now with personalized learning, and each child is being ushered into their best learning opportunity, which makes it fun and

exciting for them.”

She credits the success of Foundations to Bishop Caggiano, her board and the spirit of generosity she has encountered throughout Fairfield County.

“How grateful I am to Bishop Frank and my board for the relationship we have,” she said. “We’re all on the same page with what we are trying to accomplish in our schools. We are trying to grow the board and always looking for like-minded people.”

She considers her donors more as investors and partners in their mission: “I am inspired by the generosity of those who give so selflessly. They get to a place in their lives that this is what matters to them and they want to engage in it. We are so fortunate to have people like that who want to transform lives.”

Foundations will also benefit from the We Stand With Christ

diocesan capital campaign, which is expected to create a \$10 million endowment.

She lives in New Canaan with her family and is a member of St. Aloysius Parish.

Doherty-Lemoine will be honored on November 8 at a breakfast reception at 7:30 am at the Trumbull Marriott. Following the reception, she will deliver a talk titled, “Building a Culture of Philanthropy” as part of a program of speakers, educational sessions and professional networking. The event is expected to attract more than 250 executives, fundraising professionals, board members and community volunteers.

(For more information about Foundations in Education, contact Executive Director Holly Doherty-Lemoine, CFRE at [holly@foundationsineducation.org](mailto:holly@foundationsineducation.org)) ■

# St. Rose of Lima Parish

## Hundreds celebrate as Bishop rededicates church

NEWTOWN—More than 800 faithful filled St. Rose of Lima Parish as Bishop Frank J. Caggiano dedicated and blessed the recently renovated church and grounds on the 160th anniversary of the Newtown parish.

Changes to the church include extensive interior renovations, the construction of a vestibule for fellowship with 33 stained glass panels that tell the story of Creation, a choir loft, a bride's room and a Garden of Peace with four brass bells that were given to the parish by a Franciscan community in Maryland after the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012.

The bells honor the victims of that tragedy and 9/11, along with children who suffer from violence, and the military and first responders.

During the Mass and celebration including a reception under a large tent in the parish parking lot, the bishop paid tribute to its longtime pastor, Msgr. Robert Weiss, whose efforts in the diocesan capital campaign led to the major renovation—his legacy for the people he has served and loved in tragic and joyful times.

Addressing a packed church, with people standing in the aisles and vestibule, Bishop Caggiano said, "I am delighted to be here to join with you in prayer as we rededicate this beautiful sacred space, a space that would not be possible in its renovation without the remarkable leadership and dedication of Msgr. Weiss for which I am, and we all are, grateful." Monsignor, who has been pastor 20 years, was given a sustained standing ovation from the congregation.

The multiphase project, titled "We Stand With Christ... An Invitation to Faith and Fellowship Project," was made possible by almost 1,000 donors who contributed \$6.2 million. Their effort was part of the larger diocesan capital campaign, which has raised more than \$90 million to date for the future needs of its parishes and three foundations for education, charity and faith formation.

The bishop also paid tribute to the parish and said, "This sacred, beautiful living space of dignity would not be possible without yourselves, the person who is sit-



**ST. ROSE MASS AND CELEBRATION**—More than 800 faithful filled the newly renovated St. Rose of Lima Church in Newtown for Mass with the bishop and a celebration that followed under a large tent on the beautiful parish grounds. "Every Church is a living thing," the bishop said. "It is meant to be the home of the Mystical Body of Christ."

ting next to you, your generosity, your faith and your willingness to build a living temple to the glory of God so that generations to come can know He, who we know and love, as we come here to Calvary and in the mystery of grace receive the body, blood, soul and divinity of the only savior the world will ever know."

Acknowledging the challenges the parish has faced, the bishop praised them for their faith and perseverance and said their example serves as a powerful evangelization that calls others to Christ in a darkened world.

"My friends, as beautiful as this space is, if you look to your neighbor, you will see someone far more beautiful. And in this community of St. Rose, in times of great darkness and challenge and in times of great triumph and joy, I have seen your beauty with my own eyes," he said. "The remarkable thing about this parish is that the beauty in these walls is eclipsed by the beauty that is sitting in these pews and in a time of great challenge in the Church and even greater challenge in a world—where there are so many lost and lonely seeking a greater purpose—they can find Him here."

Bishop Caggiano recalled a trip he made with his family to the Duomo Cathedral in Florence, when his young niece disarmed him with the question, "Uncle Frank, why did they spend all this money building this beautiful church when there are so many poor people in the world

they could have fed?"

To which he promptly responded with the typical adult rejoinder, "Be quiet and don't

talk in church." She repeated the question again outside and he was at a loss to answer her, he said. Only years later did he find a satisfactory response while he was studying at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

He said that during the Middle Ages, when the faithful could neither read nor write, the cathedrals served as "living catechisms, where a person could come and in that architecture be swept up in a transcendence they could not read in a book."

"Every church unlike any other building made by human hands is a living thing," he said. "It is meant to be the home of the Mystical Body of Christ so that in its structure, in its beauty, in its reverence, in its silence, each of us and all of us together may encounter the living God."

Monsignor Weiss said that

during its 160-year history, St. Rose of Lima Parish has faced trials and challenges, starting with the Civil War, but it has endured. In his message to the congregation, he said, "I stand today on the shoulders of the pastors, priests, deacons, religious and faithful laity who have made this a true community of faith for 160 years. This place of worship has guided parishioners through some of the most incredible moments in human history. It is and always will remain a place of faith and hope. I have never been more proud to be your pastor than I am today, and I thank God every day for each of you and your love and goodness."

He thanked Bishop Caggiano for his encouragement in the parish project and recalled that at the outset of the campaign, his initial intention was simply to build a

► *CONTINUED ON PAGE 28*



**open  
house  
SUNDAY  
Oct. 6  
2–4 p.m.**

**REGISTER TODAY!**  
**FairfieldPrep.org**



**FAIRFIELD PREP**

1073 North Benson Road, Fairfield, CT

# New Principals

**PRINCIPALS FROM PAGE 6**

years. In 2015, Ms. Tokarski joined the Connecticut Science Center as the director of the Mandell Academy for Teachers and in 2016 was promoted to vice president of programs as she continued to lead Professional Learning conducted



by the Mandell Academy as well as the development and implementation of youth and student Programs. Cheryl is thrilled to be such a talented and loving faculty at St. Augustine Academy.

**Ms. Wendy Neil,**  
*Interim Principal at Immaculate High School, Danbury*

Mrs. Wendy Neil has been appointed to assume the role of interim school principal for the 2019-20 school year. Since 2013, Mrs. Neil has served as the AP US government, international relations and social studies teacher.

Prior to arriving at Immaculate, she taught in Switzerland and in China. Mrs. Neil's innovative teaching methods, communication skills and initiatives to introduce programs such as model UN and mock trial have enhanced student learning at Immaculate. She has been an active member of the school community, served as a lead member on a NEASC committee, is a member of the DOB innovative teacher committee, is serving as the IHS social studies department chair and is dedicated to providing students an excellent Catholic educational experience. Mrs. Neil began her teaching career in 1994 and earned a bachelor's in secondary education and history, magna

cum laude and was recognized as the top student in her concentration. She holds a master's in educational leadership and policy studies from Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Mrs. Neil has served on multiple selection committees for senior leadership positions. In addition to her interim principal role, Mrs. Neil will continue as the social studies department chairperson.



**Ms. Angela Pohlen,**  
*Executive Director at Catholic Academy of Bridgeport*

Ms. Angela Pohlen assumed her role with the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport on July 1. She has been a preschool-8th grade administrator for 11 years and has led schools in both Southern California and Vermont. While in Vermont, she also served as

assistant interim superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington where she led the diocese's curriculum revision in English & language arts and mathematics.

Ms. Pohlen has served on several boards including the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington's teacher licensing board, and the Vermont Independent Schools Association (VISA) and she is a current commissioner on the Commission on Independent Schools for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). She brings a wealth of instructional and systematic know-how to the role of executive director and is passionate about the unique ability Catholic schools have to be game-changers for children. She is excited to be serving the students, faculty and families of the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport.

**Mrs. Nancy DiBuono,**  
*Principal at St. Joseph High School, Trumbull*

Prior to her appointment as the principal of St. Joseph High School in 2019, Mrs. DiBuono served as St. Joe's assistant

**Rachel Ambrosio**  
*Principal at St. Catherine of Siena School, Trumbull*

From the start of her career over twenty-three years ago, Ms.



Ambrosio's passion has been working with students, teachers and families to create excellence in education. With experience as a teacher and administrator in both public, private and Catholic education, she will bring the best of these experiences to her work at St. Catherine of Siena School. Ms. Ambrosio is energetic and enthusiastic and has a comprehensive knowledge of pedagogy and instruction. She is well organized, articulate and loves a challenge. Ms. Ambrosio graduated from Boston College with bachelor's degrees in political science and elementary education. She holds a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Fairfield University and studied at Sacred Heart University for her administrator's certificate. She lives in Redding with her husband and their three children, all of whom attend Catholic schools. Ms. Ambrosio enjoys traveling, reading and most of all, spending time with her family.

**Mr. Gene Holmes**  
*Principal, St. Andrew Academy, Bridgeport*

Mr. Gene Holmes has ten years of school leadership expe-



principal for curriculum & instruction since 2011. In her role as assistant principal, Mrs. DiBuono assisted in the implementation of many curriculum and program changes that have secured St. Joes as a premiere college preparatory program. She has helped to increase advanced placement offerings and launched such courses as engineering, aeronautic engineering, statistics and broadcast journalism.

Mrs. DiBuono has also spent a great deal of time observing classroom instruction, promoting teacher professional development and ensuring the quality of such programs as Campus Ministry and Guidance. A former grammar school principal at All Saints Catholic School, Mrs. DiBuono has been tirelessly devoted to the SJHS community for the past eight years.

rience. He has over 15 years of teaching experience in middle school, high school and adult education, five of which he has been principal of a Blue Ribbon Catholic Elementary School. Mr. Holmes has developed dual enrollment programs with three

► *CONTINUED ON PAGE 25*

## VIBRANTLY CATHOLIC

Come join us. See what challenging academics, a great student experience and authentic Catholic faith mean today.

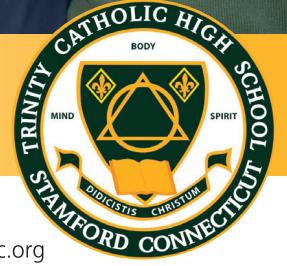
**Carlton Family Triplets**  
Grace, Maggie & Patrick  
Seniors  
TCHS Class of 2020



**Come visit us during our open house**

Sunday, Sept. 29, 1PM – 4PM  
Placement exams Saturday, Oct. 25, 8:30AM – Noon  
and Saturday, Nov. 9, 8:30AM – Noon  
or call for a personal tour. Admissions: 203-322-3401

**Come, Explore the NEW Trinity  
TRINITY REIMAGINED**



# Catholic Academy of Bridgeport

## Golf Classic a swinging success

By SUSAN CECERE

**BRIDGEPORT**—The Catholic Academy of Bridgeport held its 7th Annual Golf Classic at The Country Club of Fairfield on Monday, August 19. The event was a “birdie” by all accounts: picture-perfect weather, sold-out foursomes and a successful auction following golf that raised more than \$200,000.

This year's event was held in memory of Richard T. “Dick” Carroll, who was a 1960 alumnus of St. Augustine, one of four campuses that make up the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport; the other three being St. Andrew, St. Ann and St. Raphael. Dick, who died unexpectedly last July, and his wife, Susan, had been longtime supporters of the Academy and regularly attended fundraising events. For many years, the Carroll's also sponsored a student through the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport's Leaders of Tomorrow program, something Susan Carroll said she is committed to continuing.

“We have been so happy to support a young Catholic Academy of Bridgeport scholar named Amy who Dick and I first became acquainted with when she was just beginning school and I will continue to support her as she successfully winds her way through school,” said Carroll, who was joined at the podium by her daughter, Molly Carroll Cole. “Dick and I cherished looking forward to receiving her report cards each year and hearing of her achievements and I am honored to stand behind her as she completes elementary school. If you are looking for the best way to bet on the future, I urge you to consider sponsoring a Catholic Academy of Bridgeport student! You will not regret your investment.”

Echoing Carroll's sentiments was Catholic Academy alumnus and guest speaker Sergio Lara, who was once a scholarship recipient himself.

“My parents immigrated to the U.S. in the late 1980's and did not have faith in the Bridgeport public school system. It was only through financial assistance from the Catholic Academy that my two brothers and I were able



7TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC RAISES MORE THAN \$200,000—The sold-out event, held at the Country Club of Fairfield was a day of great golf, support for Bridgeport's Catholic schools and remembrance of Richard T. Carroll, a 1960 alumnus of St. Augustine School, long-time supporters of Catholic Academy.

to attend school there,” said Lara. “The fantastic education I received became the foundation for my future learning at Kolbe Cathedral High School and Fairfield University. Upon graduating college, I secured a job at PricewaterhouseCoopers as a member of their mergers & acquisitions group, and after assisting some of the world's largest companies in complex transactions for six incredible years, I am now a corporate strategy consultant at BDO. It is with utmost gratitude I stand here today to thank the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport for their generous gift that truly changed my life.”

Each year the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport awards more than \$2 million in needs-based financial assistance to the 85 percent of its student body whose families cannot afford the annual tuition of \$5,000. In fact, some of the schools' nearly 900 students are among the poorest in the state of Connecticut, and 61 percent qualify for free or reduced lunch.

Such scholarship opportunities are only made possible by proceeds from three major fund-raising events held throughout the school year (including a fall dinner, a spring gala or luncheon and Annual Golf Classic), gifts to the Academy's Leaders of Tomorrow program and other donations made throughout the year by generous individuals and foundations.

During the cocktail reception, Angela Pohlen, executive direc-

impact.

“Nine-hundred children are getting ready to start their school year. Because of your partnership, they will walk and drive past the public schools where they are ‘supposed to attend’ and where their stories have already been written for them,” said Pohlen. “They will pass by schools where only 23 percent of their peers are on grade level, and where violence and instability reign. Because of your partnership they will enter one of our campuses – where they are being given the tools to write their own, much different stories; where school is not the end, but the beginning; where 100 percent of them will go on to high school and 99 percent will go on to college or secondary schools. They can pass by the schools that tell them they are only a statistic and attend a school that promises

them something more.”

This year's Golf Classic was generously underwritten by Brad and Barbara Evans. Judy and Jim Bailey underwrote gifts for all the golfers. American Transit Insurance Company, where Dick Carroll had been president, was the gold sponsor and other sponsors included: Drummond Bell, Blakes School Uniform Company, Clarfeld Financial Advisors, Day Pitney, Edgerton, Jack Heffernan, Lanese Construction, Dan McAuliffe, Irene McInerney, James Read, Frank Sica and Russo & Toner.

(To find out more about the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport, sponsor one of their Leaders of Tomorrow students or RSVP to their upcoming Fall Dinner Fundraiser on Wednesday, October 2, at Polpo Restaurant in Greenwich, please visit [www.catholicacademybridgeport.org](http://www.catholicacademybridgeport.org) or call 203.362.2990.)

**NOTRE DAME FAIRFIELD CONNECTICUT**

**OUR MISSION IS YOU.**

All great high schools prepare you for college.  
**THE BEST ONES PREPARE YOU FOR LIFE.**

**Fall Open House**  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20 AT 1PM

**Entrance Exam**  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 AT 8AM

Please pre-register at [notredame.org](http://notredame.org)

# Catholic Academy of Bridgeport

## Welcomes new executive director

BY PAT HENNESSY

"Like so many of us in Catholic education, this isn't a job for me, it's a vocation. We go where God calls," said Angela Pohlen. After an intensive selection process, Pohlen has been chosen as executive director of the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport. She succeeds Sister Joan Magnetti, rscj, who retired in June.

The Catholic Academy of Bridgeport comprises the four campuses of St. Andrew, St. Ann, St. Augustine and St. Raphael. Under the guidance of Sister Magnetti for almost 10 years, the Academy recently received its 10-year accreditation. It has had a balanced budget for the past three years and an enrollment of more than 925 students. "I think the most important thing is that the Academy is in good strong shape," said Sister Magnetti. The board is also pleased that Sister Magnetti will continue as coordinator of major gifts and to promote the Academy to the public at large.

After an extensive search, chaired by Vice Chair Jim Bailey with other board members and representatives of the school com-



ANGELA POHLEN

munity, the board of directors of the Catholic Academy unanimously selected Pohlen as next executive director.

"Sister Magnetti is helping me with the transition," said Pohlen. "She's a mentor to me and I feel very blessed to have her advice and encouragement."

"Angela has got such a great skill set. I'm so delighted that she's devoted to Catholic education," said Sister Magnetti. She has introduced Pohlen to the principals of the four campuses, discussed ways to keep nurturing the life and enthusiasms of the

Academy, and shared dreams for the future. "We have such as special charism and such special challenges," she said.

A California native, Pohlen holds her bachelor's in communications and master's in Catholic Inclusive Education from Loyola/Marymount University in Los Angeles. She taught in elementary school at American Martyrs School in Manhattan Beach, Calif., where she served on the school leadership team and created and implemented gifted enrichment programs. She soon became vice principal of the school and dean of discipline. She also oversaw all after-school scheduling and programming.

In 2010 Pohlen, her husband Andy and their three children moved cross country to Vermont. She became principal of St. Mary's School in Middlebury, Vt., which went through grade 6, and later principal of Christ the King School in Burlington, with a preschool through 8th grade.

She was asked to become interim assistant superintendent for the Diocese of Burlington, which comprises the entire state of Vermont, for 2017-18, while continuing to serve as principal of Christ the

King. In that position, she helped plan and direct a multi-year process of diocesan-wide curriculum review. She currently serves as a commissioner on the Commission of Independent Schools for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

"During her interviewing process, Pohlen shared with our board, the superintendent of schools of the Diocese of Bridgeport and Bishop Frank J. Caggiano her passion for Catholic education and her lifelong commitment to the edu-

99 percent go on to college.

"At the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport, we feed students souls and hearts and minds—in that order. They are intrinsically valued, they are loved, they are fearfully and wonderfully made by a God who adores them. In this environment, students recognized that we see God in each other. They treat each other with respect, and the teachers treat the students, each other, and their parents with respect."

The oldest of the Pohlen's three children is a sophomore at Marist College, while their middle child, and only son, will be finishing his senior year at Rice Memorial High School in Vermont. Their youngest daughter has proudly donned her uniform for St. Ann Academy, where she will be enrolled this semester.

Since she began as executive director, Pohlen has already visited the four campuses of the Academy and meets bi-monthly with each of the principals. A retreat for principals and staff at the end of July gave her the opportunity to deepen this connection. "We have such a dedicated and devoted group of folks here. We're servants. We love the connection God brings to our education of these students."

cation of children in accordance with Gospel values," said R. Bradford Evans, chair of the board of directors of the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport in making the announcement.

"I loved being a teacher and loved being with kids," Pohlen said. "But I was recognizing a call to make a wider impact; to cast a wider net. We are mission-driven schools. I was led to a time of discerning, recognizing where God was calling."

Pohlen came originally from San Bernardino County in California. In many ways, during her discernment she discovered that the Bridgeport area feels like home. "I'm driven by a desire to make an impact. That's what attracted me here. In Bridgeport, the impact is so game changing that it fills your soul and keeps you inspired. All the teachers here feel that way."

With 61 percent of the students coming from homes near or below poverty level, the Catholic Academy awards \$2 million in financial aid annually. Seventy percent of students are at or above the national norm in reading and math. The high school graduation rate is 100 percent (compared with 63 percent for the Bridgeport public schools), and

**CALLING ALL SINGERS!**

**DIOCESAN YOUTH CHOIR AUDITIONS**

**Miss the Scheduled Audition Week?**  
**Not to worry, Auditions are rolling all Summer!**

It's easy to schedule, go to [C4Ysings.com](http://C4Ysings.com) and fill out Registration form and you will be contacted for an Audition! That's it! If you love to sing, love your Faith and love meeting kids from all around our active Diocese, then join C4Y, the Bishop's Choir!

This year, the Diocesan Youth Choir will be celebrating our 5th Anniversary season. Come sing with us!

All of these elements combined to direct Pohlen's discernment process toward the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport. Beginning with the recognition of the God who made and loves them.

The motto of the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport is "Something More." Pohlen sums up the impact of the motto succinctly: "These kids will contribute to a more just world."

# Religious Life

## Honoring Sr. Nancy Strillacci

BRIDGEPORT—"A time when it is growing in darkness in so many ways, in the Church and outside the Church, we need to be reminded of what our mission really is: to be a people of light," said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano during Mass at the Catholic Center.

During the Mass on the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the bishop praised Sister Nancy Strillacci, A.S.C.J., as a "bearer of light" on the occasion of her 50th Anniversary as a Sister of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Sister Nancy serves as program director in the office of Clergy and Religious Personnel, a delegate for Religious for the Diocese of Bridgeport and a leader of diocesan prison ministry.

More than 100 Catholic Center employees gathered for the cele-

bratory Mass in honor of Sister Nancy, who professed her vows 50 years to the day. She was accompanied by other members of her order who reside at the St. Raphael convent in Bridgeport.

"You, Sister Nancy and all who are in consecrated life, are the living reminder of who we are meant to be. Because of the radical life you live—to be espoused to Christ, to give up everything to live in community, which is an exercise of lived love with all of its challenges in poverty, chastity and obedience—in many ways you image what Our Lady is to every believer," said Bishop Caggiano.

The bishop said that in the middle ages, the principal symbol of Our Lady was pure, spotless glass, "because glass allows the light to penetrate through it unchanged. The glass is forgotten and the light is seen."

"She who is the great Mother of God is also the bearer of light, and in many ways you have been that to us: a selfless person who has reminded us that Christ is here to love us, enlighten us and challenge us," he said to Sister Nancy.

In his homily that reflected on the first verse of Isaiah 9:1-6, the bishop challenged all Catholic Center employees to bring the Light of Christ into the world.

"A people who walked in darkness have seen a great light," is not just for Christmas," the bishop said. "It is for every day of our discipleship. It can also help us to understand in many ways what the Lord is asking of us here at the curia in the year ahead and why you sister Nancy are such a great gift to us here."

The bishop addressed the curia, "my friends you and I are here



ON THE OCCASION OF HER 50TH ANNIVERSARY—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano and Catholic Center employees celebrated the ministry of Sister Nancy Strillacci, A.S.C.J., at a special Mass and reception marking the new curial year at the Catholic Center. "You and all in consecrated life the living reminder of who we are meant to be because of the radical life your life," the bishop said in his homily.

because God has chosen us to help in our own limited ways to bring light where there is darkness and the light we bring first and foremost are with the people we serve."

The Mass was followed by the annual Catholic Center summer picnic, which included a giant 50th anniversary cake in honor of Sister Nancy. ■



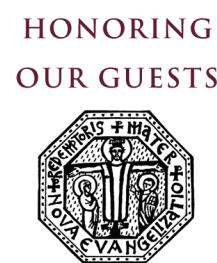
**REDEMPTORIS MATER  
DIOCESAN MISSIONARY SEMINARY OF BRIDGEPORT**

**BISHOP FRANK J. CAGGIANO  
AND FATHER MARCO PACCIANA  
INVITE YOU TO THE**

*3rd Annual Gala Dinner*



**HIS EXCELLENCY  
BERNARDITO AUZA,  
PERMANENT OBSERVER  
OF THE HOLY SEE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**



**JOHN HUGH GARVEY,  
PRESIDENT OF CATHOLIC  
UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA**



**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2019  
6:00 PM COCKTAIL HOUR | 7:00 PM DINNER**

**VAZZANO'S FOUR SEASONS BANQUETS  
337 KENYON STREET, STRATFORD, CT 06614**

**PLEASE R.S.V.P.**

**BY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2019**

**Table pricing**

**Single Ticket – \$200 | Table for 10 – \$1,800**

For tickets and table information please contact,  
Jeannette Leonardi: 203.449.1266 or clari12@icloud.com

For information on advertising in the program please contact,  
Ralph Lazzaro 203.416.1462 or rlazzaro@diobpt.org

# Catholic Academy of Stamford

## Fostering a journey that lasts a lifetime

By MIKE MACARI

**STAMFORD**—Nestled in the suburban Newfield neighborhood of Stamford, The Catholic Academy of Stamford is entering the next era in its mission to educate and form our young students.

“The Academy” as it has become affectionately known in this community, is seeing the vision for its mission at the next level as students prepare to enter the 2019-2020 school year. This fall, students of the upper school grades 6-8 are entering a new facility specifically prepared and renovated for them in the west wing of neighboring Trinity Catholic High School.

This co-habitation is allowing students access to a bustling campus environment, highschool preparatory classes in algebra, and Trinity’s brand-new athletic complex. The move allows for a more seamless transition for middle school students to high school as well. Former Trinity Assistant Principal Christine Wagner now helms the upper school as its principal.

The new address at 926 Newfield Avenue is literally a stones-throw from the middle school’s former location next door at 948 Newfield, in the rear of the Trinity campus. The upper school will be formally dedicated by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano on September 10. The Salvatore Cingari family of Stamford will be honored during the dedication.

Earlier this year, parents were surveyed by the Diocese of Bridgeport as to their preferences for the location of the lower school, overwhelmingly choosing to have it remain at its familiar and current location at 1186 Newfield Avenue.

The journey truly begins at the lower school. Here, children as young as three years old begin a safe, nurturing experience that leads right up to the transition into middle school. The Academy accommodates the needs of working families and young children by having earlymorning drop-off and after-school programs. “Beyond the Bell” enrichment activities and clubs continue the daily learning experience students

are afforded here.

At the Catholic Academy, certified master’s degree teachers work in small class sizes, with a 10:1 student/teacher ratio. This dedicated staff of veteran educators and young master’s teachers truly provide an environment where children are loved, nurtured and formed in the faith, prepared for school beyond elementary levels.

Veteran Catholic educator, Pat Brady, has assumed a day-to-day leadership role this year in addition to providing strategic direction. Pat has taken the role of lower school principal, as well as head of school for the upper and lower schools of the Catholic Academy of Stamford. Pat takes great pride in creating a regular schedule of events that reinforce both Catholic identity and Gospel values, celebrated and taught throughout the year.

The school is continuing a hallmark of providing personalized, technology-driven learning, in a high academic environment. Beginning in the lower school grades and continuing into the



**NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPUS**—This Fall, students of the upper school grade 6-8 at Catholic Academy of Stamford are entering a new facility specifically prepared and renovated for them in the west wing of neighboring Trinity Catholic High School. The move opens new opportunities and allows for a more seamless transition to high school.

upper school, Catholic Academy students have access to hands-on STEM curriculum in advanced technology, robotics, the sciences and math. Mr. Craig Pucci, a 28-year veteran of Trinity Middle School, now the Catholic Academy upper school, teaches “Project Lead the Way” which this year is adding Computer Science for Innovators and Makers, and App Creation to its curriculum.

Visitors to both the lower and upper school campuses will find revitalized and newly renovated spaces that are conducive to learning. “Forming Hearts; Informing Minds; Transforming Lives;” building on the diocesan directive to provide authentically Catholic values in a nurturing, safe environment of highacademic learning. The Catholic Academy of Stamford may just be the “FIT” families are looking for in the greater Stamford area.

Both the lower school and upper school will be holding open

houses for the public next month. The lower school, located at 1186 Newfield Avenue, will hold its open house for PreK 3- grade 5 Sunday, October 6 from 11 am-1 pm. The upper school open house at 926 Newfield Avenue will follow three days later for grades 6-8, Wednesday evening, October 9 from 5-7 pm.

Interested visitors and applicants can also “Take a Look” during “Take a Look Tuesdays and Thursdays” during November, or by arranging for a personal tour by calling Mary Margarone, director of admissions, 203.322.6505. Financial aid is available by application.

True to our motto, at The Catholic Academy of Stamford, we are committed to educating our youth in a safe, nurturing environment that allows every student to prepare academically and spiritually for high school and beyond. We invite all to come and see what the excitement is truly all about.

### CHARITIES FROM PAGE 13

Commerce Park Childrens’ Dentistry and Orthodontics, the group collected and delivered over 160 boxes of cereal.

The Thomas Merton Center is committed to providing a loving, safe and hope-filled community atmosphere, which responds to the needs of its guests. Through its food pantry, Merton provides close to 1,000 families with 10 days of food, which amounts to 30 meals once per month. The House of Hospitality serves breakfast and lunch daily to approximately 300 men, women and children. None of this would be possible without volunteers like George and the people from Realty One Group.

(If you would like more information on how you could help the Thomas Merton Center, contact Sabine Kuczo at skuczo@ccfc-ct.org or visit the Thomas Merton webpage at www.themertoncenter.org.)



### JOIN THOUSANDS OF DONORS WHO HAVE MADE THEIR GIFT TO THE APPEAL!

**BISHOP CAGGIANO URGES EVERYONE  
TO HELP US REACH OUR \$9,750,000 GOAL.**

**YOUR GIFT CAN HELP US GET THERE!**

**MAKE YOUR GIFT ONLINE TODAY  
[WWW.2019ACABRIDGEPORT.COM](http://WWW.2019ACABRIDGEPORT.COM)  
CALL 203-416-1470**



# Immaculate Sports

## Saidman, Mascetta set pace

By DON HARRISON

DANBURY—Brian Hayes, Immaculate High School's veteran track and cross country coach, is entering the 2019 fall season with mixed emotions. He's excited to take on new challenges, but, at the same time, he laments the loss of two of the Mustangs' all-time athletes, Angela Saidman and Taylor Mascetta.

Both young women graduated this past June and will continue to pursue track and cross country in college, Saidman at Columbia and Mascetta at Fordham.

Still, Hayes continues to savor the memories of their coda performance at the prestigious New Balance Outdoors Nationals track and field meet in Greensboro, North Carolina, on June 16. Teaming up with underclassmen Molly Coyle and Ailene Doherty, they sparked Immaculate to a fourth-place finish in the 4x1 mile relay with a time of 20:37.21. The six finalists were awarded All-American status.

"It was amazing," Hayes says. "We were five seconds out of first place and one-point something out of second."

"Most of the really good teams are in this meet every year. We've had two or three really good runners most years, but this

time we had four and so we were able to compete and do well."

Saidman, who earned a multitude of honors in her senior spring season, including All-State, Academic All-State, All-New England and All-American, opened the event with a 5:01.72 time. Doherty, who was just a sophomore, checked in with 5:21.57, followed by Coyle, a junior, at 5:12.81. Mascetta capped the Mustangs' strong finish with a 5:01.09 clocking.

"When you hand off the baton to the fourth person," notes Hayes, "you want it to be Taylor."

Mascetta, who captained the girls track squad, surpassed two school records in outdoor track: 800 meters (2:14.01) and the mile (5:01.09). She also eclipsed the indoor 1,500 meters record with a 4:46.18 time.

Saidman was at her best in the 2019 State Open when she won the 1,600 meters event with a school-record 4:57.16 time.

Last fall, Saidman and Mascetta were just as dominant with Immaculate's girls cross country team. As co-captains, they provided the leadership for the Mustangs to garner their fourth consecutive Class SS state title and sixth in the previous seven seasons. With 31 points, Immaculate finished well in

front of runner-up Haddam-Killingworth's 78.

"It's about tradition," says Hayes. "It's also about believing and hard work."

The Connecticut High School Coaches Association named Saidman to its All-State cross country team the past three seasons, while Mascetta was a 2017 All-Stater.

Doherty joined Saidman on the 2018 All-State squad.

Hayes, whose immaculate boys' team captured the first state title in school history last fall, received some well-deserved acclaim himself. He was chosen Connecticut's Coach of the Year for girls cross country by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association.

Hayes, who competed in track and cross country at Cardinal Spellman High School in the Bronx, spends much of his work day as a resource officer at Broadview Middle School in Danbury. But he derives so much of his satisfaction from coaching the boys and girls cross country and outdoor and indoor track teams at Immaculate.

As he stated, "It's about tradition." And he is the bedrock for that tradition. ■

*PRINCIPALS FROM PAGE 20*

area colleges, has staff development and training experience and has conducted data analysis on individual, building and district levels. Mr. Holmes has conducted teacher training in the instruction of writing, CMT, CAPT, DBQ,

School Climate process and has created and implemented school safety procedures and building modifications.

**Ms. Christine Wagner,**  
*Principal (Upper School) at Catholic Academy of Stamford*

Ms. Wagner has previously served as assistant principal of Trinity Catholic High School.

At this year's Diocese of Bridgeport Catholic Schools convocation held at the Klein Memorial Auditorium, Dr. Cheeseman addressed the educators, saying, "Just as you were made in God's image and likeness, so were your students." "As you enter your classroom," said Dr. Cheeseman, "you do so as living witnesses to the faith...you belong to something special."

(To learn more about Catholic schools in the Diocese of Bridgeport visit: [dioceseofbridgeportcatholicschools.com](http://dioceseofbridgeportcatholicschools.com).) ■



as well as staff development for elementary, middle and high school staff. He is also familiar with the school accreditation process, having served on visiting committee for NEASC. Mr. Holmes has been a facilitator for



IMMACULATE HIGH SCHOOL'S FOURSOME of, from left, Molly Coyle, Angela Saidman, Ailene Doherty and Taylor Mascetta placed fourth among 29 teams in the 4x1 mile relay at the prestigious New Balance Outdoors Nationals track and field meet at Greensboro, North Carolina, on June 16. The top six finishers earned All-American honors.



ANGELA SAIDMAN EN ROUTE to capturing the 1,600 meters at the CIAC State Open meet with a school-record time of 4:57.16 this past June.

**Tickets on sale now!** [www.maltahouse.org](http://www.maltahouse.org)

**THE MIDTOWN MEN**

**SEPT 14, 2019**  
**8PM**

**THE PALACE**  
**STAMFORD**

**TO BENEFIT MALTA HOUSE in Norwalk**

**THE MIDTOWN MEN**  
FOUR STARS FROM THE ORIGINAL BROADWAY HIT "JERSEY BOYS"

# Obituaries

## Peter E. Nelsen, Organist

STRATFORD—Peter E. Nelsen of Stratford passed away peacefully on Tuesday August 6, surrounded by his loving family at the age of 72.

An accomplished musician and singer, "Pete" served for 58 years as the only organist at his beloved St. Mark Church. He taught music at St. Mark School, and was director of both the adult and children's choir.

Gifted from youth with musical talent and a beautiful voice, he was conscripted to play at a funeral at St. James Church at the age of 14, when the regular organist was unavailable. Shortly after that he became the first organist at St. Mark Parish, which was formed out of St. James and founded in 1960.

Over the years he played at the weddings and funerals of St. Mark's parishioners and his own funeral became a celebration of his life when many area musicians gathered to play before the Mass.

Born October 28, 1946, he was a loving son to Anne Klesper. He was a graduate of St. James School, Bunnell High school, and studied at The Liturgical School of music

in N.Y. A lifelong resident of Stratford, he was also a proud U.S. Army veteran.

Pete was very involved in the Town of Stratford as a realtor, past president of the exchange



club, commissioner of the inland wetlands committee, and musician who brought Christmas songs to Lord Chamberlain during the holidays.

Mr. Nelsen is survived by

his beloved, devoted and loving wife of 35 years Mimi and 4 amazing children, Christopher and Kathleen Berarducci of Little Silver, N.J., Kasey and Michael Wendland of Stratford, Matthew and Jenna Nelsen of Stratford and Katherine and Andrew Voytek of Stratford. He was the Poppi to his cherished grandchildren, Owen, Declan, Axel, Jack and his "Gracie Girl."

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on August 10th at St. Mark Church in Stratford. Interment with full military honors followed at St. John's Cemetery, Stratford.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Pete's memory to St. Mark Church.

(For more information or to make an online condolence please visit [www.adzimafuneralhome.com](http://www.adzimafuneralhome.com)) ▀

## Sr. Julia Mary Van Rossem, 84

Sister Julia Mary Van Rossem, a member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, died on August 10, 2019, at Lourdes Health Care Center in Wilton, Conn., at age 84. Margaret was born in Jamaica, New York, in 1934, the daughter of Henry Nicholas Van Rossem and Mary Catherine Keegan, of the Bronx and Greenpoint, New York.

After pronouncing her vows as a School Sister of Notre Dame, in 1958 she began teaching at St. Teresa School in Trumbull, Conn. In 1970 she became principal at St. Mary School in East Islip, N.Y. In 1976 she began 26 years as principal at St. Anthony of Padua School in South Ozone Park, N.Y. Later she taught at Immaculate Conception School in Secaucus, New Jersey. She came to Villa Notre Dame in Wilton in 2003 and was local leader and assistant leader of the sisters at Lourdes Health Care Center until 2013. She moved to Lourdes only in July 2019.

Memorial contributions may be made to the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Atlantic-Midwest Province, c/o Development Office, 345 Belden Hill Road, Wilton, CT 06897.



## FUNERAL GUIDE

**NEIL F. HARDING**  
Director/Owner

**Harding**  
FUNERAL HOME

203/227-3458  
FAX 203/227-1420

210 POST ROAD EAST  
WESTPORT, CT 06881

**COLLINS**  
**FUNERAL HOME**

92 EAST AVENUE • NORWALK  
866-0747

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

Family owned for four generations



"Quiet Dignity Without Extravagance"

Affordable Direct Cremation  
Title XIX Welcome

**County Cremation Service**

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

## DECEASED CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT SEPTEMBER 8—OCTOBER 12

SEPTEMBER	YEAR
9 Rev. Colin McKenna .....	2015
Rev. Richard Monahan .....	2010
12 Rev. Frank D. Yoia .....	1974
14 Aloysius J. Hribšek .....	2014
15 Rev. Joseph V. Rossitto .....	2004
16 Rev. William J. Conklin .....	1992
Rev. Martin Dennehy .....	2013
17 Rev. John A. Sullivan .....	1953
Rev. Robert L. Christopher .....	1958
18 Rev. Msgr. Normand A. Methe .....	2002
20 Rev. Joseph J. Maglione .....	2003
Msgr. Edward B. Karl .....	2009
23 Rev. Msgr. Edmund J. Hussey .....	1991
Rev. Frederick H. Olschefskie .....	1956
Deacon Paul Tupper .....	2013
28 Rev. Edward A. Morgan .....	1992
OCTOBER	YEAR
2 Deacon Joseph Filingeri .....	2013
Rev. Robert Morrissey .....	2014
Rev. Ralph Seraphim Rohlman .....	2017
3 Msgr. John H. Anderson .....	1967
5 Msgr. Victor Balcerak, O.F.M. Conv. ....	1960
6 Deacon William Owen Murphy .....	2017
Rev. Francis Posluszny .....	2015
12 Deacon Michael Wolfer .....	2013

# 'Our Lady de Guadalupe'

## La parroquia cien por ciento hispana

POR: MARICARMEN GODOY

DANBURY. Mil ochocientas personas acuden regularmente durante el año, los domingos y en las fiestas religiosas a escuchar misa y cumplir los sacramentos en la iglesia "Our Lady de



Guadalupe" (Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe), una feligresía cien por ciento hispana, lo que le ha convertido en la única iglesia en ofrecer todos los servicios eclesiásticos y administrativos en español y estar catalogada en la Diócesis de Bridgeport, como la única parroquia hispana.

En 1978 se fundó la iglesia Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, por el entusiasmo de un sacerdote español apoyado por feligreses puertorriqueños, dominicanos y un pequeño grupo de ecuatorianos que en ese momento empezaban a asentarse en el área de Danbury.

Según el P. John J. Pérez, se desconoce las razones por qué los fundadores decidieron poner a la parroquia el nombre de la Virgen de Guadalupe cuando no habían mexicanos envueltos al momento de la fundación, pero cree, como un hombre de fe, que fue una inspiración divina para honrar el nombre de la madre de Dios. "Pudieron haber elegido el nombre de Montserrat de España, o Altavista de República Dominicana o Providencia de Puerto Rico, o la Virgen del Cisne de Ecuador; pero eligieron el nombre de Guadalupe de México", repuso.

Y desde finales de la década del 70 las misas de las ocho, de las diez y del mediodía del domingo son en español, por tanto, doña María Gerardina Yadaicela, ataviada con sus galas dominicales,

oriunda del Cañar-Ecuador, y quien visita a su familia que residen en New York, pudo asistir a la misa dominical de las diez de la mañana sin el miedo de que la homilía sea en inglés.

Y así como doña María Yadaicela, mil ochocientas personas acuden a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, ubicada en 29 Golden Hill Road, Danbury, Conn. Lo curioso, de acuerdo al padre John J. Pérez, director de la parroquia, es que los feligreses no solo residen en Danbury sino vienen de pueblos aledaños al área incluyendo New York, gracias a que es una iglesia hispana y por tanto los fieles se sienten cómodos atendidos y colaborando en su idioma.

Una de ellos es doña Agripina Bueno, nativa de la República Dominicana, voluntaria de la parroquia desde hace casi tres años. Ella, trabaja como voluntaria en la catequesis infantil y rota cada dos meses, junto a un grupo de feligreses, cocinando los domingos para lograr vender almuerzos y de esa manera ayudar con los gastos de la iglesia.

Gastos, que acorde con el P. Pérez ascienden a 30.000 dólares mensuales, entre el pago a la planilla laboral, los gastos de mantenimiento, los pagos de facturas de la luz, el agua, la calefacción o el aire acondicionado, el teléfono, etc.

La iglesia Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe inicia su organización parroquial desde el momento en que los feligreses ingresan al parqueo. Una cuadrilla de hombres con chalecos de colores fosforescentes organizan el trabajo, sirven de vigilantes y pasan por agentes de seguridad aún cuando son solamente del "ministerio de seguridad", una agrupación voluntaria que controla el orden vehicular y la seguridad pública para la iglesia.

Durante la semana la parroquia ofrece una misa diaria y cuenta el sacerdote que a esta misa siempre acuden entre 30 a 50 personas. En los siete años que lleva como párroco de la iglesia nunca su parroquia ha sido abandonada debido a que todo el tiempo están motivando desde el púlpito, los boletines informativos, la catequesis, los ministerios de oración o servicios pastorales; que colaboran y hacen parte activa de su iglesia.

Razón suficiente para entender que por ser una parroquia netamente de inmigrantes el sacerdote escribe cartas de recomendación dirigida a Inmigración (ICE) dejándole saber al gobierno que conoce a tal inmigrante, que acude regularmente a la iglesia, que es parte de la comunidad. Cartas que se han extendido no solamente al Servicio de Inmigración sino a la Corte y hasta al Departamento de Policía.

"Cuando hablamos del Gobierno estamos tocando temas muy delicados. Siempre y cuando un feligrés esté registrado en la parroquia y me pide una carta con este fin yo se la entrego. Y si es que es un fiel que ayuda y colabora en la iglesia, dentro de la misiva yo escribo que es alguien muy servicial dentro de la parroquia", dijo.

El P. John Pérez, titular de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe,



NUESTRA SEÑORA DE GUADALUPE ostenta el título de ser la única parroquia de la Diócesis de Bridgeport, en ser la parroquia hispana por excelencia. Fue fundada en 1978 y aunque no se sabe por qué se decidió nombrarla Nuestra señora de Guadalupe, es la iglesia donde más misas se ofrecen en honor al Niño Jesús, a la Virgen del Cisne y donde existe un "ministerio de seguridad pública".

es nativo de Bogotá-Colombia, tiene 20 años perteneciendo a la Diócesis de Bridgeport, fue ordenado sacerdote hace 16 años, tiene sus estudios teológicos

y filosóficos realizados en Maryland. Vivió varios años en la parroquia de Saint Mary en Stamford y hace siete años fue traslado a Danbury.



**Those with Down syndrome,  
their family and friends  
are invited to**

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass asking  
for the intercession of St. Robert Bellarmine  
Father Joseph Koterski, S.J., celebrant  
**Sunday, September 22, 2019**  
**9:30 am at St. Augustine Cathedral**

399 Washington Avenue; Bridgeport, CT 06604  
Reception next door following Mass  
at Kolbe Cathedral High School gymnasium.  
All are welcome!

Please come and join the **MOMs+DADs** prayer/support group  
(Mother of Mercy spiritual Advocate for Down syndrome)

inquiries welcome at [strapostolate@optimum.net](mailto:strapostolate@optimum.net).

Information and prayers

regarding the St. Robert Bellarmine Apostolate  
will be available at the Mass.

# Column: Thomas Hicks



## September

### POTPOURRI

By THOMAS H. HICKS

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

**I**n the soft light of an autumnal day,  
When Summer gathers up her robes  
of glory,  
And like a dream of beauty  
glides away."

(Sarah Whitman, *A Still Day in Autumn*)

Already it is September. The sun edges south. Days shorten. Nights deepen. Summer is already a fading memory. The waning flowers are living their last days. A medieval poet said it well: "Now fade rose and lily-flower that for a while bore its sweet savor in summer, that sweet time."

You see the changes in the way the shadows fall. Day by day, the shadows grow longer.

And there is a slightly different tincture to the light—a softening. The grass looks a bit exhausted. The first dead leaves of a new autumn scrape on the sidewalks. People walk faster, and there is usually a sharper appetite.

Before the month is over, there will be the flight of geese going south for the winter. At first we hear the distant gabble. Then we see them penciled against the morning sky. They fly in their lovely wedge and always have a leader who pilots the flock. Their sound is oddly triumphant and exciting, but it is also the sound of another summer gone and the certainty of November and December.

The birds are busy. They begin to gather in restless flocks,

migration on their minds. They often cloister on wires, rallying for the long trip. But mainly they are incessantly in motion, hoping, flying, alighting. You hear the change in the birds calls. There are fewer songs of ecstasy. Now they are filled with the excitement of migration time. They put on their pre-migration fat, often in grapevines and berry bushes. They will act this way for a time, and then be on their way. They may cover hundreds of miles in a day. Most of the swallows have already gone; some of the robins have left. There are those winter birds that decline to join the seasonal escape.

By the middle of the month the katydids and the crickets, which made the darkness hum and quiver, have pretty much run their course. There's quiet to the darkness now.

September brings back the routines and chores we have laid down during the summer. There are the old routines to take up again. There are the rituals of the new school year. Classes begin; teachers and others return to work. There are the school bus and train schedules, homework and soccer practice.

Some fill the woodshed with firewood. We sink back into the old routines. For some, the changes are energizing and exhilarating, a time of reinvigoration and rediscovered energy. Parents are often relieved to have children in school again.

Now the furnace sighs and there is the sound of leaf blowers. The beaches are empty. There are the barren porches where leaves are gathering.

Even in September the year turns toward color in the woodlands. Maples turn first. Color tiptoes through its treetops, rouging a few leaves that turn yellow and red. The dogwoods turn early. The elm trees particularly look tired and begin to shed old leaves early. Then little by little the other trees follow.

September brings some of the loveliest days of the year. The sun has lost its summer fire, and days tend to be crisp and clear. There's the sparkling freshness of a September morning. Thomas Hood wrote that in an early September morning it can be like "silence listening to silence." There is the deep blue sky of September, and wonderful afternoons. with mild breezes and comfortable temperatures. There is that relaxation from

summer heat. There are the soft September twilights, and sunsets are often brilliant and triumphant.

"Where are the songs of spring? Ay, where are they?

Think not of them, thou hast thy music too".

(John Keats, *To Autumn*)

But September knows the limitations of life. In September, one can almost hear the sound of passing time. September tells us that nothing stays, all changes. Beauty passes, however rare it be. Nothing lasts in this world. But beauty lingers in those autumn shadows.

"And time passes, passing like a leaf...time passing, fading like a flower. Time passing like a river flowing. Time passing." The words are those of Thomas Wolfe, in September we have a sense of those words.

September is insistently a time of remembering. Each September finds me with a sweet, faint melancholy. There is a haunting sorrow for the dead, for all those who were gone and would not come again. I sigh for lost years. Van Gogh understood there's a certain melancholy that belongs to autumn. And, of course, September warns us that winter days lie ahead.

### ST. ROSE OF LIMA FROM PAGE 19

new parking lot. However, the bishop encouraged him to "build for the future and begin writing a new chapter" for St. Rose.

The parish thanked Bishop Caggiano, and as a sign of its appreciation for his leadership, he was given a reliquary with a relic of St. Rose of Lima, followed by a standing ovation.

At the conclusion of the dedication, Bishop Caggiano said, "When Monsignor came to me and spoke about his dream, I asked him to think bigger, and I did it with every confidence because remarkable things can happen when leadership is trusted and loved, and here at St. Rose, Monsignor, everyone in this church trusts you and loves you very much."

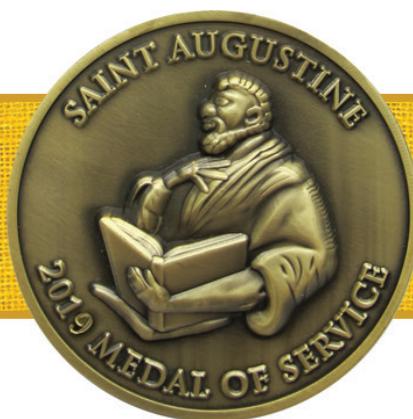
In his comments, Msgr. Weiss thanked the many people who made the project a success.

"The outpouring of good will

is a testimony to the faith of the parishioners of Saint Rose, a parish that has truly made a difference in the lives of hundreds of thousands of people throughout our 160 years," he said in his message to the parish. "Our church has been a source of celebration, a place of consolation and a respite from the trials and challenges parishioners face in their everyday lives. Millions of prayers have been offered and thousands of candles have been lit to bring hope, peace, strength and continued faith and trust in God's love for each of us."

The renovations also include a bride's room, a utility room, new entrances, and a new parking area. Saint Rose of Lima Church is located at 46 Church Hill Rd in Newtown.

(For more information contact: 203.426.1014 or visit the website at: [www.strosechurch.com](http://www.strosechurch.com).)



## ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

**ST. AUGUSTINE MEDAL AWARD CEREMONY**  
**Saturday, October 26, 2019 • 1:00 p.m.**

St. Augustine Cathedral | 359 Washington Avenue | Bridgeport, CT

# Column: Joe Pisani



## SWIMMING UPSTREAM

BY JOE PISANI

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

**E**very so often I rent a movie to watch on my iPad because I don't own a television. We're not Amish. We just gave up TV when we realized the entertainment industry was undermining everything we were trying to do as parents.

With four daughters, it was virtually impossible to monitor what they were watching, so in a fit of what I like to think was justifiable anger, I pulled the cable box out of the wall and went to Walmart, where I bought a set of rabbit ears, which let them watch two channels for the news, the weather and maybe "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood" or "Little House on the Prairie." No more "Jerry Springer," no more "Dawson's Creek," no more "Beverly Hills 90210." That was a while ago and things have gotten immeasurably worse.

I eschew R-rated movies although PG13 can be pretty downright vulgar too. When I'm looking to rent a film, I usually google it and ask the question, "Why is (film name) rated R?" You'd be terrified by the answers. There are generally a large number of violent acts, sex acts, deaths, dismemberments...and the requisite "pervasive language," which in simple terms means a whole lotta swearing. They say you are what you eat. Well, you certainly are what you watch.

The other day, I came upon a few movies I thought might be appropriate and I rented what seemed like the most innocuous possibility of all—"The Bad News Bears" with Walter Matthau, a classic kid comedy that most of us have probably seen several times since it was released in 1976. Rated PG, it seemed like it would be my kind of movie, so I settled down for a predictable plot with a few laughs along the way.

# Breaking the Second Commandment

work, at home, on the street, in the bar and everywhere else.

I still remember being in fourth grade when we learned the Ten Commandments from the Sisters of St. Joseph. I wasn't quite sure what the words "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain" meant, but I figured it must be a pretty important commandment if God made it number two...when murder was number five and stealing was number seven.

A few years ago, I really started to pay attention to my language and launched a major personal campaign to stop using profanity

even when I was insanely angry. I got so bold that when someone used Jesus' name as a curse, I would object. As you can imagine, I didn't get many invitations to sports bars and rock concerts.

But this is important stuff. If we don't tell our kids, family, friends and coworkers that we don't like to hear God's name tossed around like a common curse, who will?

Whenever you hear anyone taking God's name in vain, ask for forgiveness for that person and say a prayer of reparation.

Our faith is pretty explicit

### LOURDES FROM PAGE 9

Virgin appeared to Bernadette Soubirous, a 14-year-old peasant girl, in 1858.

Every year, 6 million pilgrims travel to Lourdes, one of the most revered Marian shrines in the world, to pray to Our Lady. Many go in the hope they will receive a healing at the spring the Blessed Virgin revealed to St. Bernadette. In the 160 years since the apparitions, thousands of people have been healed in the waters, and 70 have been recognized as miraculous cures by the Church.

The volunteers of the Lourdes Hospitality association bring

seriously ill and disabled people to the shrine and also share the message of Lourdes by conducting the Virtual Pilgrimage for those who cannot travel to France. Their mission is "To extend the invitation of the Immaculate Conception as given to Bernadette in the Grotto at Lourdes, to serve the sick and suffering at Lourdes and at home.

The Virtual Pilgrimage experience, which lasts about two hours, is held at parishes, schools, prisons, nursing homes, universities and convents. Since it began in 2004, more than 165,000 peo-

on this topic. The Catechism says, "The name of the Lord is holy. The second commandment prescribes respect for the Lord's name...and forbids the abuse of God's name and every improper use of the names of God, Jesus Christ and also of the Virgin Mary."

God's name should only be used to bless, praise or glorify and not be abused in hateful words, false oaths, anger, reproaches or defiance of God.

Never forget the fundamentals: "Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name."

ple have taken part in 44 states and 19 countries.

A lifelong Greenwich resident and parishioner at St. Roch Church, D'Andrea approached Bishop Frank J. Caggiano with the idea of bringing the Virtual Pilgrimage to Stamford and received his support. Father Gustavo Falla, pastor of St. Mary's, agreed to host the event at his church, which can seat up to 900.

(For more information about the volunteers, visit [www.LourdesVolunteers.org](http://www.LourdesVolunteers.org). To learn about the Stamford event, call David D'Andrea at 203.918.9089.)

## CATHOLIC PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

### Law Office of James M. Hughes

Elder Law/TITLE 19/MEDICAID-Planning  
Veteran's Benefits - "Aid & Attendance"  
Estates/Probate/Real Estate

1432 Post Road, Fairfield, Connecticut 06824  
203.256.1977 — [hughes\\_james@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hughes_james@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.fairfieldctelderlaw.com](http://www.fairfieldctelderlaw.com)

### PARISH WEB DESIGN PACKAGES

- Mobile Friendly
- Accept Donations
- Management Tools
- SEO Ready

[Visit: Magtype.com](http://Visit: Magtype.com)

special pricing for non-profits



### UNITED SEWER & DRAIN CLEANING, INC.

#### RESIDENTIAL EMERGENCY DRAIN CLEANING

#### MUNICIPAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL

24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE • LICENSED & INSURED

**377-8704**

or

**1-800-422-3724**

Office: 534 Surf Avenue • Stratford



### SEASON TO CLEAN

Carpets – Drapery  
Rugs – Upholstery  
Grout, Tile & Stone

Norwalk (203) 847-8000  
Stamford (203) 327-7471  
Stratford (203) 375-3737

# Bits and Pieces

**OUR LADY OF PEACE CHURCH** in Stratford will also be selling tickets for its 2019 raffle to take place on **Sat., Sept. 7**, the same day as the annual block party. Tickets can be purchased at the OLOP parish center during normal working hours or through Mike Morin, raffle chairman at: 203.520.7319 or mikef.morin@gmail.com.

**ST. JOHN'S IN STAMFORD** is hosting its second Night Vigil—a time of street evangelization where we invite people to come into the Basilica for a powerful encounter with the Lord in Adoration. The event will

take place on **Sat., Sept. 7** from **6:15-9 pm**. For more info contact Fr. Joseph Gill at: frjosephgill@gmail.com.

**THE CHRIST THE KING WOMEN'S GROUP** will be meeting on **Mon., Sept. 9**.

**THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE** of the Parish of St. Catherine of Siena and St. Agnes invite you to a Prayer Service for Children at the Border on **Wed., Sept. 11** from **7-8 pm** followed by discussion until **8:30 pm** in the St. Catherine of Siena Chapel. Parking available across the street opposite Hill House. For more info visit: [www.stcath.org](http://www.stcath.org).



St. Vincent's Health Partners is an organization committed to optimizing the patient experience. We can help **employers** foster a healthier, more engaged workforce, while lowering the cost of providing quality care.

Contact us today for more information:  
203-275-0201  
or

[SVHP.Clinical.Integration@StVincentsHealthPartners.org](mailto:SVHP.Clinical.Integration@StVincentsHealthPartners.org)

**HONDA**  
By **Curtiss\*Ryan**

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



**ONE OF CT'S LARGEST VOLUME HONDA DEALERS**  
**CT'S FIRST ESTABLISHED HONDA DEALER • APRIL 1973**

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



CALL CURTISS RYAN AT  
**1-800-523-4190**  
**203-929-1484**

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

## BEREAVEMENT

**MINISTRY**—A 10 session program over nine months will begin at St. Jude's Parish in Monroe on **Wed. Sept. 11** from **2:30-4 pm** in the Social Hall. Sessions will be held twice a month in Sept., Oct. and Dec., and once a month in Nov. and Jan. through April. Registration is required. For more info or to register, call the parish: 203.261.6404.

## MERCY LEARNING

### CENTER SEEKS VOLUNTEER TUTORS

Tutors meet with their students at the Center, which is open Mon. through Fri. between 8 am and 5 pm. New tutors are needed! All instructional materials are provided. Teaching experience is not necessary. Upcoming training sessions will take place on **Fri., Sept. 13 and Fri., Sept. 27** from **9 am to 3 pm** (lunch is provided). For more info contact: Lynn Gabriel at 203.334.6699 or [lynn.gabriel@mercylearningcenter.org](mailto:lynn.gabriel@mercylearningcenter.org).

**THE BASILICA OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST IN STAMFORD** is having a meet the author event featuring a meet and greet, book signing and talk by Catholic author Kathryn Whitaker on **Sat., Sept. 13** from **2-10 pm**. For questions contact Lisa Kotasek at [lisakotasek@gmail.com](mailto:lisakotasek@gmail.com) or 203.253.3499.

## OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

**CHURCH'S 26th ANNUAL SEPTEMBERFEST** will run on **Fri., Sept. 13** from **6-10:30 pm**, **Sat., Sept. 14** from **1-10:30 pm** and **Sun., Sept. 15** from **1-6 pm**. For more info contact the parish office at: 203.333.9065 or go to the parish website at: [www.assumptionfairfield.org](http://www.assumptionfairfield.org).

## FAITH ON TAP

Stamford's young adult talk series launches again on **Tues., Sept. 17** from **7-9 pm** with Deacon Ernie Jeffer's testimony and conversion story: From Prodigal Son to Catholic Deacon! This monthly series will be hosted at Brother Jimmy's BBQ in Stamford. No cost to come—all young adults ages 21-39 are invited!

**CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS OF GREATER DANBURY** will gather on **Wed., Sept. 18** at **7 pm** for Faith Formation and Discussion at Sacred Heart Parish Center in Danbury. The group will gather for S'mores and Stars on **Fri., Sept. 27** at **8:30 pm** at St. Ann's in Danbury.

## ST. GREGORY THE

**GREAT PARISH** will be having their 2nd Annual Parish Carnival on **Sat., Sept. 21** from **noon-6 pm**. Join in the fun on the parish field for games, food and more!

## THE LAY DOMINICANS

### AT ST. THERESE IN TRUMBULL

will be having an open house for inquirers on **Thurs., Sept. 19** from **7-8 pm** in the Lower Parish Center. All are welcome to attend to find out more about becoming a Lay Dominican.

## ST. STEPHEN PARISH IN TRUMBULL

will be hosting a Blood Drive on **Sat., Sept. 21** in the Parish Hall from **8 am to 1 pm**. The blood drive is being held in conjunction with the American Red Cross. Donors should sign up online at [www.americanredcrossblood.org](http://www.americanredcrossblood.org).

**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., Sept. 21** at **9:30 am** with celebrant Fr. Norm Guibert. After Mass, there will be a social and meeting held in the Parish Hall. All are welcome! For further information, call Fran Karpie, OFS, at 203.452.7040 or [paxjc@aol.com](mailto:paxjc@aol.com).

**BIBLE STUDY**—Parish of St. Catherine of Siena and St. Agnes,

Riverside—Monday evenings, **Sept. 23-Nov. 25**, **7:30-9 pm** or Tuesday mornings, **Sept. 24-Nov. 26**, **10-11:30 am** in the O'Connor Center, Room 101. 1 Corinthians, 10 sessions, \$30 materials fee payable first class. For more info visit: [www.stcath.org](http://www.stcath.org).

## BEREAVEMENT

**SUPPOORT GROUP** for anyone grieving the loss of a loved one will meet at St. Stephen Parish in Trumbull. A series of 10 weekly meetings with experienced counselors will begin on Thurs., Sept. 26 from 4-5:30 pm. Must register in advance. For information call the parish office at 203.268.6217.

**A CAREGIVER AND AGING CONFERENCE** will be held at Southern Connecticut State University on **Sat., Sept. 28** from **9 am-4 pm**. This conference offers a wide variety of topics and a chance to learn, explore and share with people of all generations to address life's challenges. For more information visit [www.generation-bridge.org](http://www.generation-bridge.org) or contact Brian Sherwood at 203.570.4150.

## ST. FRANCES X CABRINI COLUMBIETTES AUXILIARY

are hosting its 3rd Annual Mohegan Sun Bus Trip on **Sat., Sept. 28**. The buses leave St. Andrew's Church in Bridgeport at **2 pm** and return between **10 pm** and **midnight**. There will be a 50/50

**Proud printers of  
Fairfield County Catholic**



**Trumbull**  
PRINTING

Please contact us for a FREE consultation, print samples & quote. We also offer a simple online quote request form.

**205 Spring Hill Road, Trumbull CT 06611**

**203.261.2548**

**[www.TrumbullPrinting.com](http://www.TrumbullPrinting.com)**

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

# Bits and Pieces

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

**Project Rachel Ministry presents two upcoming Entering Canaan retreat dates:**

**RETREAT DAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ABORTED A CHILD BECAUSE OF AN ADVERSE DIAGNOSIS—**  
**Sat., Sept. 28;**  
**email: [lumina@postabortion-help.org](mailto:lumina@postabortion-help.org) or call: 877.586.4621.**

raffle, snacks and games on the bus. The cost is \$35 pp. with a dinner voucher (worth \$15) and a wheel spin voucher (worth \$15). Reservations a must before **Sept. 1**. Payments due by **Sept. 8**. For more info and reservations, contact Sue Berry at: 203.856.6213. All are invited to join in on the fun at the Sun!

**DINNER WITH A CAUSE**—The Social Justice Committee of the Parish of St. Catherine of Siena and St. Agnes is sponsoring its Dinner with a Cause, **Thurs., Oct. 3, 6:30-8:30 pm** in the Church Hall. The featured guest is Cathleen Caron, founder of Justice in Motion, a non-profit dedicated to serving the needs of migrant workers. Come for a light dinner at **6:30 pm**, presentation at **7:15 pm** followed by Q & A. Free will offering to

benefit Justice in Motion. RSVP to: [parkerelizabeth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:parkerelizabeth@sbcglobal.net) or 203.637.8092.

**DASH THROUGH THE CATECHISM**—A new year-long adult faith study with Fr. Joseph Gill will be starting **Thursday nights**, starting **Oct. 3**, from **7-8:30 pm** at St. John's Basilica in Stamford. For more information, please contact Fr. Joseph Gill at [frjosephgill@gmail.com](mailto:frjosephgill@gmail.com).

**RETREAT DAY FOR THE BUSY MAN AND WOMAN:** “A Call to Peace”—register early: space open for only 40 people, men and women. **Sat., Oct. 5** from **9 am-3:30 pm** at the Convent of St. Birgitta in Darien. Cost \$60/pp includes lovely hot lunch served by the Sisters. Registration due by September 21st. Contact Fran Karpie, OFS, by email: [Paxjc@aol.com](mailto:Paxjc@aol.com), or phone: 203.452.7040.

**MASS OF HEALING AND HOPE**—the Charismatic Renewal Services announces a Mass of Healing and Hope: **Wed., Oct. 9**, at **7 pm**, at St. Marguerite Parish, Brookfield, with Fr. Larry Carew. For more info, call the Charismatic Renewal Office: 203.456.5610.

**ST. ANN PARISH IN BRIDGEPORT** is hosting their

annual golf classic on **Sat., Oct. 12** with a shotgun start at **1 pm**. To register an individual or group or to become a sponsor, please fill out the form online at: [www.stannblackrock.com](http://www.stannblackrock.com) or mail to St. Ann's.

**THE CT CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE** will be held on **Sat., Oct. 19** from **8:30 am-4 pm** at St. Paul Catholic High School in Bristol. Purchase tickets online at [www.ctcatholic-men.org](http://www.ctcatholic-men.org).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON DONATING A BRICK** for a Veteran, from the U.S. Military and our allies. For more info call: 203.345.3244 or email: [artfalcon@optonline.net](mailto:artfalcon@optonline.net). In order to ensure installation for Christmas, the deadline for donating a Brick to Our Veterans Memorial, is **Fri., Nov. 1**.

**ST. MARGUERITE PARISH'S 27TH ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL** will be held **Sat., Nov. 2, 9 am-4 pm**. Vendor Applications are available at [stmarguerite.org](http://stmarguerite.org) under “Breaking News.” If interested in becoming a vendor, don’t delay—spaces have sold out the past two years. For information, contact Jean at 203.775.5117, x 213.

**THE NEW COVENANT CENTER'S NINTH ANNUAL HARVEST TABLE** will be at the Italian Center in Stamford from **6-9 pm on Thurs., Nov. 14**. Please join us for a bountiful evening with cocktail hour, delightful harvest dinner, silent auction and special program. Tickets on-sale **Fri., Sept. 20**. For ticket pricing and details visit NCCharvesttable.givesmart.com.

**OUR LADY OF PEACE CHURCH** in the Lordship section of Stratford will be conducting a free 10 week program. The group will meet **every Wed.** from **6:30-8 pm** in the Parish Center. If interested call Janet Gillick, certified facilitator at: 203.377.4817 or call the Parish Center at: 203.377.4863.

**A SPIRITUAL PILGRIMAGE TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE AND MEXICO** is being held **Mon.-Sat., Dec. 2-7, 2019**. The price is \$1,695 and includes round trip airline tickets, airline taxes/fuel surcharges, hotels, breakfast and dinner daily, sightseeing, transportation to JFK, tips to tour guide and bus driver. For reservation contact Fr. Marcel at Christ the King Church: 203.434.7208 or email: [\[saintjean@gmail.com\]\(mailto:saintjean@gmail.com\).](mailto:marcel-</a></p>
</div>
<div data-bbox=)

**OPEN CALL FOR SINGERS**—The Westport Town Hall Christmas Benefit Concert for the Malta House of Bridgeport will be held on **Fri., Dec. 6** with the Cantiamo choir. Interested singers should contact the director, Marlane Tubridy via email at: [artsforthecommunity@gmail.com](mailto:artsforthecommunity@gmail.com).

**JOIN FATHER BRIAN GANNON** for an amazing pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Trip is from **Feb. 3-12, 2020** for only \$3698 per person. Price includes round trip economy air, all hotels, sightseeing, transfers and most meals. Call Virginia at 203.402.0632 or email [vdedad@cruiseplanners.com](mailto:vdedad@cruiseplanners.com) for more information or to book.

**CHRIST THE KING CHURCH, TRUMBULL** will be having a 10-day pilgrimage to Italy from **May 18-27, 2020** led by spiritual director Father Walsh. The trip will be to Rome, Assisi, Florence, Padua and Venice and will include roundtrip air from JFK, deluxe motor coach, English-speaking guide, breakfast and dinner daily, and daily Mass and Rosary. For more info call the Parish Office at: 203.268.8695.

## Notre Dame's Garlic Fest is back!

By ELIZABETH CLYONS

**FAIRFIELD**—There will be something for everyone at this year's Garlic Fest, the return of a beloved tradition started by the late Father Bill Sangiovanni, a long-time Notre Dame administrator and passionate supporter of Catholic education.

“The Garlic Fest, itself, is one of our enduring tributes to Father Bill,” said Notre Dame principal Chris Cipriano. “As we celebrated his life after he passed in February, so many people mentioned their fond memories of the Garlic Fest—we felt it would be a fitting tribute to Father to bring back not only a marquee event for the community but also one to honor his legacy. We know he will be with us in spirit for the weekend (and hope he can help us get some great weather too!),” said Cipriano.

After visiting the Gilroy

Garlic Festival in California, Father Bill wanted to bring the concept back to Connecticut. He used the festival to raise funds for tuition assistance for ND students. Nearly 10,000 people attended the first year and for the next 12 years, over 100,000 people visited during the annual

**“Father Bill oversaw every detail of the festival, still walking around and knowing nearly everyone. He was like the mayor.”**

spring tradition, the last of which occurred in 2004.

“One of the most vivid memories I have as a young faculty member during the original festival's final years was Father Bill wearing his famous garlic hat,”

recalls Cipriano. “Father Bill oversaw every detail of the festival, still walking around and knowing nearly everyone. He was like the mayor. He was so proud of the festival and ND—you could see it in every conversation he had.”

The idea to bring back the Garlic Fest came from a strong desire to honor Father Bill and to bring back a major community event. “It has been a tremendous amount of work to pull off in six months—but with a great committee (several members of which helped plan the original Garlicfests!), we are looking forward to a fantastic event in September,” said Cipriano.

This year's festival will feature an array of food trucks, live entertainment, vendors, a kids-area, plenty of food (both garlic-themed and not) and even a special brew in honor of Father Bill. Notre Dame alumni will even have the chance to reconnect at the Alumni Tent.

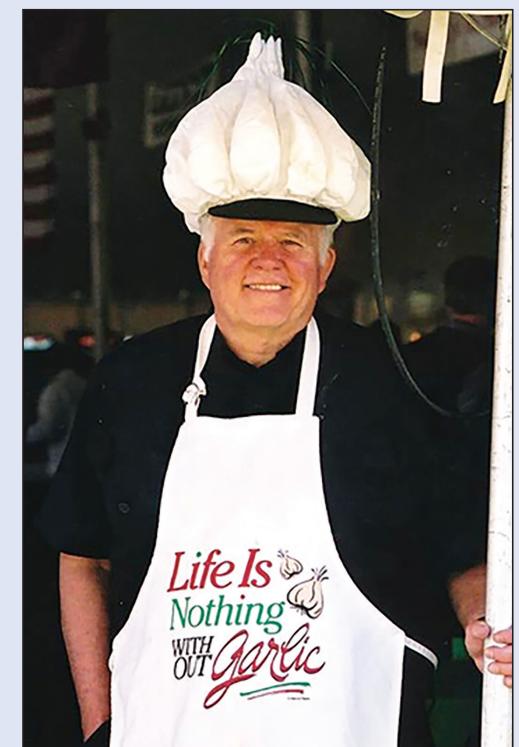
Event proceeds will ben-

efit the Father Bill Sangiovanni Memorial Scholarship and the ND Fund.

Join us this upcoming September to celebrate the old and the new all in support of our students.

The Garlic Fest will be held on Friday, September 20 (5-11 pm) and Saturday, September 21 (11 am-11 pm).

(For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit [NDgarlicfest.com](http://NDgarlicfest.com) or contact Karen Guastelle at: [kguastelle@notredame.org](mailto:kguastelle@notredame.org) or Chris Cipriano at: [ccipriano@notredame.org](mailto:ccipriano@notredame.org).)



A TRIBUTE TO FR. BILL SANGIOVANNI—When the Garlic Fest returns this year to Notre Dame High School in Fairfield, it will also be an opportunity to celebrate the life and vision of Father Sangiovanni who created and oversaw every detail of the original festivals. This year's event is set for Friday and Saturday September 20-21. Proceeds will benefit a scholarship fund in Father Bill's name.

# Your life isn't slowing down. Make sure your heart can keep up.



## Get an affordable calcium scoring heart scan

Even if you feel healthy and are active, it's a good idea to get a CT screening of your heart. This elective screening takes just a few minutes and detects calcium buildup in your arteries. It may detect certain forms of heart disease — often before you have symptoms — and help reduce the risk of a heart attack.

### Is a screening right for you?

A screening is recommended for men ages 45–80 and women ages 55–80. We also recommend getting screened if you're younger and have one or more of the following risk factors:

- Family history of heart disease
- Tobacco use
- High cholesterol
- High blood pressure
- Overweight or inactive lifestyle
- Diabetes



To schedule, please call  
**203-380-3916** to talk with  
a St. Vincent's specialist or  
visit [stvincents.org/heartscan](http://stvincents.org/heartscan).

A CT screening is a self-pay, low-cost,  
elective screening.

