



FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC

OCTOBER 2019 | VOLUME 36, NUMBER 9 | AUTUMN ISSUE

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Judge's Accountability Report:

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2019 Blue Mass

First Responders 'put their lives on the line' for us

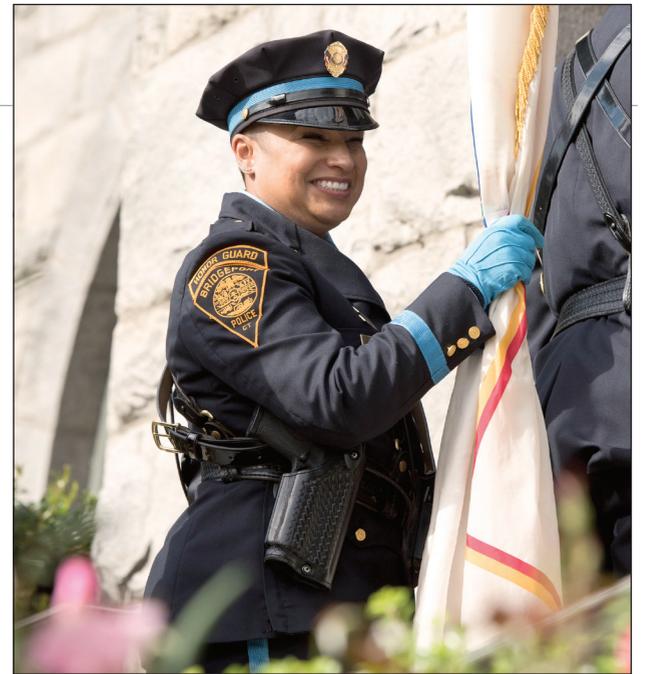
By BRIAN D. WALLACE

BRIDGEPORT—"Never work with a partner who does not know fear," Father Charles Allen said a veteran police officer once told him. "People who know fear learn how to overcome it when they are called on to protect others and heal the wounds of the world."

Father Allen became the first Blue Mass honoree to also deliver the homily at the annual Mass, held recently in Bridgeport, commemorating the 9/11 terrorist attacks

long-time Fairfield police department chaplain, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano noted that this year's Blue Mass coincided with the 60th anniversary of Father Allen's ordination as a priest. "Your service has enriched lives in the entire community," the bishop said.

After Holy Communion the bishop presented a special posthumous award to Sir Knight Angelo Fernandez, a member of both the McGivney Council 12615 and the Sheridan Assembly 107. Mr. Fernandez, who died in August of this year, was recognized for being a "driving



and honoring the bravery and service of active first responders in Fairfield County.

He was recognized for guiding the Blue Mass since its inception and serving as longtime chairman of the observance.

The Mass began with a procession with bagpipes sounding down Washington Avenue under a huge American flag draped from a fire department rescue truck outside the front door of St. Augustine Cathedral.

"Today, we celebrate the heroes of 9/11," Father Allen said to the police, fire and emergency personnel and all those who gathered at the 18th annual Blue Mass. "We also realize that we may need that heroism again on any given day."

In his homily he urged police, fire and EMT's to be lifelong learners, to find co-workers whose judgement they respect, to prepare the next generation for service, "and to pray often as Luke tells us, 'O Lord, you have been our refuge in every age. Pray that He will always be with us, watch over us, and protect us the most difficult of times.'"

In presenting the special award to Father Allen, who is assistant to the president of Fairfield University and a

force" behind the need to honor first responders. His wife, Sally, accepted the award in his honor.

The bishop and Father Allen then presented awards to this year's honorees from the Newtown, Fairfield, Greenwich and Norwalk Police Departments.

"Day after day you work quietly, valiantly and generously. You put your lives on the line so our lives are safe. I pray for you each day that God give you the strength to do what you need to do."

Police Department Honorees

Norwalk Police Officer Julio Rodriguez of the Special Services Division was recognized for his work on the Task Force to remove narcotics from the city of Norwalk. He was involved in two major cases that removed deadly narcotics including fentanyl from the streets and saved lives.

Greenwich Police Officer Joseph Havranek for over 43 years of dedicated service in law enforcement. Officer Havranek was involved in many community outreach programs including TRIAD for senior citizens. He has served as an usher and has been an usher at 7 am Mass at Saint Mary's Church in Greenwich for the past 15 years.

Fairfield Police Officers Paul Medvegy and Mark

Letsch were honored for their professionalism and compassion in responding to serious accidents as Crash Reconstructionists for the Fairfield Police Department. Over the past several months, Officers Letsch and Medvegy have responded to tragic events which have resulted in the unexpected loss of several people and required support to the family and friends who found themselves engulfed in a tragedy.

Newtown Police Officers Lieutenant Richard Robinson and Sergeant Scott Ruszczyk created one of the top stress and resiliency courses for law enforcement in Connecticut. In the future they hope to see all law enforcement officers utilizing skills to take care of their mental and physical well-being throughout their careers and to never see an officer lost to the tragedy of suicide.

The recession began with the presentation of colors followed by the playing of Taps, which filled the recesses of the historic Cathedral, and the singing of America the Beautiful.

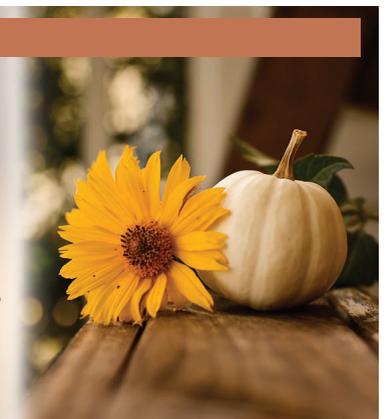
After Mass, the bishop greeted first responders who joined together for the annual Blue Mass photo. Many well-wishers also took photos of the honorees and personally thanked the men for their service in keeping others safe. ■

ON THE COVER

Retired Superior Court Judge Robert Holzberg discussed the Accountability Investigation Report at the recent press conference. Media throughout the state and across the country reported the findings.
(Photos by Amy Mortensen)

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Latest News

Personal & institutional failures led to abuse crisis

By **BRIAN D. WALLACE**

BRIDGEPORT—The investigative report on clergy sexual abuse of minors in the diocese of Bridgeport, released by Retired Connecticut Superior Court Judge Robert Holzberg on October 1, has drawn national attention and earned recognition for transparency in the account of the abuse in the Diocese of Bridgeport.

At the press conference held at Pullman Comley LLC offices in downtown Bridgeport, Judge Holzberg officially released the report, which was widely covered by state, national, secular and Catholic media.

The 250 page document was immediately made available online and can be read in its entirety at: www.bridgeportdiocese.org. The judge had full and unrestricted access to 250,000 records and the report delivered to the general public was the same report the bishop received from the judge.

The report, commissioned by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano in October 2018 has been described by media and victims as groundbreaking and historic because it is believed to be the first fully independent investigation commissioned by a diocese that offers a comprehensive accounting of the failure of diocesan leadership to protect children and respond to the crisis.

“The single gravest moral and legal lapse was the consistent practice of Bishops Lawrence Shehan, Walter Curtis and Edward Egan—over four decades—of leaving abusive priests in service and thereby making it possible for them to continue committing abusive acts,” the report concluded.

After Judge Holzberg delivered the executive summary, Bishop Caggiano began his remarks by offering his “profound and heartfelt apology to all who have suffered abuse at the hands of any cleric in our diocese.”

“My heart goes out to all who were harmed and victimized and their families. The survivors live with deep scars that abuse carved into their lives. I pledge that we will accompany you on the road to healing,” he said, directly

addressing the survivors who attended and others who watched the press conference, which was streamed lived on the diocesan website.

The bishop added that one of the “hidden graces” to come out of the tragedy is that he has become friends with victims who have helped lead the diocese toward healing and reconciliation.

He also apologized “to all those who have lost a sense of trust or feel betrayed by church leadership and pledged to do “whatever is humanly possible to eradicate this evil from our midst” and to swiftly implement the recommendations included in Holzberg’s report.

While the report is sobering in its description of the treatment of victims and other institutional failures, it also documents the good work the diocese has done over the past 18 years to safeguard children, reach out to victims and provide transparency concerning allegations.

“When you have a wound, you have to clean it out completely or it cannot heal,” the



HISTORIC PRESS CONFERENCE—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano speaks to the press after Retired Connecticut Superior Court Judge Robert L. Holzberg introduced the Report on the Investigation into the History of Clergy Sexual Abuse of Minors in the Diocese of Bridgeport at the October 1 press conference held in downtown Bridgeport.

bishop said. “It is a wound that I am very much aware will take a very long time to fully heal. “However, this report I believe is an important and essential step in our ongoing efforts to bring healing to anyone who has been wounded by this scourge.”

The report not only gives a complete accounting and listing of abuse by priests, but also documents major institutional failures that prolonged suffering for victims and their families.

“Until the early 2000s, the collective response of diocesan officials to the sexual abuse crisis was inadequate in nearly every way,” the report said.

However, the report notes a dramatic turnaround in the way the diocese began handling cases under Bishop William E. Lori’s tenure and continuing through the leadership of Bishop Caggiano.

The entire 8th chapter of the report deals with the way previous bishops and administrators responded to victims and the abuse crisis by drawing on letters and other documents.

“This leadership history is important to the key findings in part because the approaches to sexual abuse taken during the tenures of the five bishops have differed starkly,” the report concludes.

“If there were a subtitle to this report it might be ‘A Tale of Two Cities,’ reflecting the incalculable damage and injury inflicted on the diocese during the tenures primarily of Bishops

Walter Curtis and Edward Egan, and the persistent, meaningful efforts made by their successors, Bishops William Lori and Frank Caggiano, to restore stability, trust and faith in the diocese.”

The report indicates that Bishop Lori’s efforts in Bridgeport borrowed from his efforts as a member of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, to influence the emerging national campaign by Catholic bishops to address sexual abuse of minors.

Distribution of abuse over the decades:

21 incidents of abuse under Bishop Lawrence Shehan 1953-1961
217 incidents of abuse under Bishop Walter Curtis 1961-1988
27 incidents under Bishop Edward Egan 1988-2000
2 incidents under Bishop William E. Lori 2001-2012
0 incidents under Bishop Frank Caggiano 2013-present

“He participated in drafting the ‘Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People,’ which United States bishops adopted in 2002 along with Essential Norms for Diocesan Policies and Sexual Abuse.”

Bishop Caggiano “has extended the policy reforms of the Lori administration while breaking new ground on survivor outreach and reconciliation,” it said. Since his installation, the bishop’s “touchstones for his actions” have been accountability, transparency and protection of children.

The two bishops have “adopted and enforced policies requiring that all credible abuse allegations be reported to civil authorities, as well as ‘up the chain’ within the

Church itself. They have adopted ‘zero-tolerance’ policies for priests (and other diocesan personnel), committing to permanently and completely removing clergy from duty for any incident of sexual abuse. They have diligently used the procedures made available to them by the Holy See to dismiss the gravest offenders from the priesthood altogether.”

In addition, the two bishops “have established a new approach of outreach to, conciliation with and support of survivors and the faithful that has been positively received in much of the diocesan community,” it added.

Among the 71 priests identified as having allegedly abused minors sexually, 41 were determined to be “credibly accused of abusing minors.” All of these priests have been removed from the ministry.

A total of 10 priests were determined to be “not credibly accused” but who were the subject of settlement payments by the diocese and their names have been included in the report. The church has paid approximately \$56 million in settlements in lawsuits brought by survivors.

Another 20 priests were found to be not credibly accused

because of a lack of evidence or they have cases pending before the diocesan review board.

The report notes that about 75 percent of the victims are male, 16 percent are female and the other 9 percent’s sex can’t be ascertained by records.

The judge’s report also addressed the impact of the abuse crisis on “non-offending” clergy who have suffered because of the sins of others and faced burdens in their ministry.

➤ *CONTINUED ON PAGE 9*

For the executive summary and recommendations see pages 7-9

Clergy Sexual Abuse of Minors from 1953 to the Present:

- 281 individuals were sexually abused as children
- In most cases the evidence of abuse is overwhelming and conclusive. In others, the evidence is more ambiguous. In a small number of matters the evidence is very limited such as a single anonymous complaint.
- 71 priests are alleged to have sexually abused minors.
- Among the 71 priests with allegations of abuse, 10 were responsible for 61 percent or 172 those allegations.
- Approximately 1,500 priests have served in the diocese since 1953. The alleged abusers represent 4.7% of that total.

We Stand With Christ Update

Capital campaign passes \$100 million mark

BRIDGEPORT—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano recently announced that the We Stand With Christ diocesan capital campaign has passed the \$100 million mark, a major milestone that puts it at 135 percent of its original goal of \$75 million.

“To date, \$101.5 million has been pledged, which is a true indication of the overwhelming generosity of the faithful in the diocese and their commitment to future generations in our parishes and those who benefit from our ministries in charity, education and faith formation,” the bishop said.

He credited the 14,500 people who have made pledges to date and the pastors and hundreds of volunteers whose efforts have made We Stand With Christ the most successful campaign in the 65-year history of the Diocese of Bridgeport.

The campaign has received 10 gifts of \$1 million or more, 100 gifts of \$100,000 plus and 700 gifts of \$25,000 plus. The average gift at this point of the campaign is \$7,000.

“This is an extraordinary demonstration of generosity and leadership and support of the mission of the Church during a

difficult period,” he said.

The campaign, which began the fundraising phase more than a year ago after an eight-month planning phase, is still continuing. Of 59 parishes, fewer than 10 are actively working on the campaign and will finish by December, while nine will begin in 2020. After that, the solicitation phase of the campaign will end.

The others are transitioning to the redemption phase of the campaign, which will entail collecting donations over the next five years and ensuring the pledges are fulfilled.

A number of parishes have completed work on projects that were made possible by the capital campaign. Bishop Caggiano said there are many stories of the wonderful impact the campaign has had, including the new parish center that was recently dedicated at St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Church in Shelton and the extensive renovations to St. Rose of Lima Parish in Newton.

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.



WE STAND WITH CHRIST—The campaign has its origins in the 2014 synod when Bishop Caggiano called forth the diocese in renewal. Thousands turned out at Harbor Yard for the Closing Mass in which the bishop announced many of initiatives now funded by the capital campaign.

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 exec-

utive 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.

“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,” 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 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.

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.

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 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.

The Foundations are made possible through contributions to We Stand With Christ, which will provide them with funds to support their missions into the future. 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 commit-

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

St. Augustine Medal

Ceremony set for October 26

BRIDGEPORT—The Saint Augustine Medal of Service prayer service and awards ceremony will be held at St. Augustine Cathedral on Saturday, October 26, beginning at 1 pm.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano will lead the prayer service and present medals to more than 190 recipients from parishes and ministries across the diocese.

Honorees will be recognized for their volunteer service to parishes, schools and charities throughout Fairfield County.

At last year’s ceremony, every seat in the cathedral was filled as the pastoral leaders who nominated the recipients, their friends, family and loved



ST. AUGUSTINE MEDALS OF SERVICE—Hundreds turn out each year for the joyful prayer service and distribution of medals to honorees.

ones gathered to acknowledge and celebrate the honorees for their volunteer service to parishes, schools and charities throughout Fairfield County.

Bishop Caggiano addressed

the medal award recipients, “You have been a force of unity and acceptance...you have been the agent to give life abundantly.”

The bishop thanked the recipients once again before the closing

of the ceremony, “I am very grateful, in light of that day to come, for each and every one of you who are the honorees. Thank you for your witness, generosity, faith, courage and what you do to make God’s will real in the world.”

The St. Augustine Medal of Service was instituted in 2005 to recognize the “unsung heroes” who unselfishly give of their time and talents to build up parish communities. On one side of the medal is an image of St. Augustine of Hippo, patron saint of the diocese. The reverse features the coat of arms of the diocese.

(For further information contact Elizabeth Auda 203.416.1636, email: eauda@diobpt.org.)



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Respect Life

'Life Chain' rallies in downtown Stamford

By **JOE PISANI**

STAMFORD — They stood on the sidewalks and street corners, holding signs that proclaimed the sanctity of life to the world passing by. Signs that said, "Abortion kills children," and "Lord, forgive us and our nation" and "Abortion hurts women." Some people scoffed, others honked their horns to show support.

Several dozen faithful from the diocese took part in the "Life Chain" on Atlantic Street outside the Basilica of St. John the Evangelist after the recent annual Respect Life Mass.

An organizer of the Life Chain, Tim Dineen of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Wilton, said, "Our purpose is to make people aware that abortion has to be overcome in this country. You never know how the Holy Spirit is working. Someone may see one of the signs we're hold-

ing and be changed by it."

The Life Chain is held every year on the first Sunday in October at 1,200 locations across the country, where people pray and rally. It was begun in 1987 by a small California pro-life ministry called "Please Let Me Live."

Frank Carpanzano, who has been organizing the event for the past ten years at the Basilica, said, "We just want to let people know that life is sacred and needs to be protected. We are here to give witness and to pray for an end to abortion. We have to let the Lord decide when it is going to end, and we have to pray and persevere."

Maureen Ciardiello, coordinator of the Respect Life Ministry of the diocese's Office of Faith Formation, organizes the Mass every year, which kicks off Respect Life Month. The event also marks the beginning of Respect Life Year, which offers educational programs



A PEACEFUL, PRAYERFUL PRESENCE—Several dozen faithful from the diocese gave witness at the "Life Chain" rally on Atlantic Street in Stamford outside the Basilica of St. John the Evangelist.

and information to create awareness of the sanctity of life and show the community what it means to stand up for life.

"We do a more peaceful, prayerful presence," she said, rather than getting involved in

the angry debate that surrounds the issue of abortion. "It is part of our faith to stand up for people who are vulnerable and to bring it all in prayer to Christ and let him be at the center of it all... Since the Mass is the ultimate form of prayer, there's no better way to start out the Respect Life Year than with the Mass."

In his homily, Father Albert Audette, Jr. said that more than half of Catholics "offer their children up in sacrifice through abortion," which he called "an unbelievably horrible sin." "How can this be?" he asked.

He also pointed to the importance of having a strong faith in Christ and cited the example of the Apostles. "The Apostles were very concerned with their faith and as they grew in the realization that Jesus was the Messiah, their faith became abundantly clear and they suffered martyrdom and great tragedies in their short lives," he said.

He told the congregation, "We are the Apostles of today, who must form the faith, guard the faith and give it to our little ones."

Scholastica Nabwire, president of the Legion of Mary, took part in the rally after Mass and stood on Atlantic Street with a sign that said, "Jesus forgives and heals."

"Our world is just crazy," she said. "We need Our Lord and Our Mother to help us because we can't do it by ourselves." Originally from Uganda, she has been a parishioner at the Basilica 22 years and is in formation to become a lay Franciscan.

"We need to fight for life because some people just don't understand," she said. "We have to

be an example for them so they can see how we live our lives because it is so hard to persuade somebody who is not trying to follow God."

Father Joseph Gill, parochial vicar at the Basilica, took part in the rally and held a sign that said, "Lord, forgive us and our nation."

"When I was growing up in Maryland, we did the same thing on Respect Life Sunday, and I was five years old when I went to my first one," he recalled. "For me this issue is the modern day Holocaust, and in years to come, we will look back and ask ourselves as a nation how could we have allowed this to happen in much the same way the Germans asked themselves how they could allow that to happen in their own back yard."

"I would encourage people not to be afraid to stand up for life," he said. "What we were doing is a positive thing by pointing out that all life is sacred from conception to natural death. We are trying to raise awareness in a big way. There are people in Stamford who don't know this is an issue and that it happens right here in our city."

He said that a fundamental tactic of Satan is to deceive us so that we see life as a threat rather than a gift from God.

Fred Cobb stood on the corner of Atlantic Street and Tresser Boulevard, and held a sign that said, "Women DO regret abortion." He is a parishioner at the Basilica and also a member of the Sidewalk Advocates, a pro-life group that conducts prayer vigils in front of Planned Parenthood in Stamford. He said his group also offers counseling and gives women resources and alternatives to abortion.

Ann Marie Carpanzano, director of religious education at the Basilica, has supported the pro-life movement her entire life, and her father Frank has been taking her to Respect Life Masses since she was a child.

"He showed me the importance of this and that life begins at the moment of conception until natural death," she said. "I am a strong Catholic and this has been my belief all my life. It is the truth and the way God wants it to be. That's why I'm here."

(For more information, contact the Office of Faith Formation at 203.416.1670 or email: OfficeofFaithFormation@diobpt.org.)

ALL SOULS DAY MASS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2019 (at 6 locations)

11:00 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 Brian Gannon**

ST. MICHAEL CEMETERY

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

ST. JOHN CEMETERY

25 Camp Avenue, Darien
Principal Celebrant: **Father Paul Murphy**

ST. JOHN - ST. MARY CEMETERY

223 Richards Avenue, Norwalk
Principal Celebrant: **Monsignor Walter C. Orlowski**

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://www.facebook.com/bridgeportdiocese)



**FOR MORE INFORMATION
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Accountability Report on Investigation

Executive Summary & recommendations

Preface

We are providing this investigative report to the Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano and the community of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Bridgeport. The report represents an almost one year effort by attorneys and professionals of Pullman & Comley, LLC, under my direction, to document and analyze the history of sexual abuse of minors by diocesan clergy, and the diocesan leadership's response to that abuse, from the founding of the diocese in 1953 to the present.

Among the challenges we have encountered in producing this report are the many gaps in the evidentiary record. My colleagues and I believe that we have had full access to all available records of the Diocese of Bridgeport that relate to the sexual abuse of children and youth, including records referred to by some as "secret." However, the records are in some instances cryptic or simply do not include all of the information that an accuser or accused might wish to have presented to someone evaluating an allegation of sexual abuse or the diocese's response to such an allegation. Furthermore, a considerable number of the people involved in the events investigated are dead or, particularly in the case of survivors of abuse, understandably have not wished to speak with my colleagues and me. Among those with whom we have been able to speak, memories of events that took place as much as a half century or more ago may well be imperfect.

Nonetheless, I am confident that the conclusions expressed here have been fairly reached based on the evidence available and on the inferences appropriate to the particular investigatory role that my colleagues and I have been asked to undertake. I have endeavored, without applying any specific evidentiary standard from the law, to weigh these matters with the detachment, care and fairness that I would have when serving as a judge of the Superior Court.

I invite anyone who has additional information bearing on the findings of this report or the mat-

ters investigated to provide it to the diocese or to the investigative team at Pullman and Comley, LLC.

Respectfully,
Robert L. Holzberg
Judge, Connecticut Superior Court (Ret.)

Principal Findings

Our investigation has been informed by the painful knowledge that clergy sexual abuse of minors has profound consequences for its victims. Survivor pain and suffering is real, and can be unrelenting and devastating to both the survivors and their families.

We are mindful that clergy sexual abuse of minors has caused injury and pain well beyond the survivors themselves. Parishioners have anguished over the injury caused by priest-predators, and the parishioners' perception, confirmed by this investigation, is that the values and teachings of the Church were betrayed by those who failed to act decisively in the face of documented predatory and criminal misconduct. Those failures have led to a generation of unrelenting negative publicity, settlements in civil suits of approximately \$56,000,000, and, most profoundly, for many of the faithful a loss of trust in the Church and its teachings.

We are also mindful that the overwhelming majority of hard-working and dedicated priests who have faithfully adhered to their vows have likewise been scarred by the misdeeds of their colleagues. For many there is a sense of shame, loss and betrayal, and abiding uncertainty as to how to minister to the needs of parishioners in the face of constant scrutiny and suspicion arising out of the clergy sexual abuse scandal of the past 50+ years.

In brief, the findings of the investigation are these:

- The existence of sexual abuse by certain priests of this diocese, particularly abuse of children, was known to the diocesan leadership at least as early as 1953. Two hundred eighty-one individuals have



COMMITTED TO BRINGING HEALING AND RECONCILIATION—The Accountability Investigation and report issued by Judge Holzberg included an executive summary and recommendations (printed below) as well as a detailed narrative on the way the diocese responded to allegations in the past.

been identified as having been abused during the diocese's approximately 66-year history, nearly all when they were minors, by 71 priests. The 71 priests constitute 4.7 percent of the approximately 1,500 priests who have served the diocese since 1953.

- It is likely that there are more victims and clergy abusers than we have identified. Bishop Walter Curtis, acknowledged purging and destroying records concerning sexual abuse of minors. For the first forty years of the diocese, until the early 2000s, the record-keeping and archival system of the diocese was inadequate and antiquated, creating the possibility that even with our review of 250,000 paper and electronic records we have not identified all clergy sexual abusers and their victims.
- The abuse ranged from lewd behavior in front of victims to violent assaults. It had many profound effects on the victims over and above the sexual abuse itself, including long-term mental health problems, fear of retaliation after the fact, and estrangement from their families and from their religious faith.
- Until the early 2000s, the collective response of diocesan officials to the sexual abuse crisis was inadequate in nearly every way, but the single gravest moral and legal lapse was the consistent practice of Bishops Lawrence Shehan, Walter Curtis, and Edward

Egan—over four decades—of leaving abusive priests in service, and thereby making it possible for them to continue committing abusive acts.

- Until 1990, Bishops Curtis and Egan failed even to acknowledge, let alone comply with, their legal obligations arising from the 1971 state law mandating that priests report allegations of child sexual abuse to either law enforcement or the Department of Children and Families.
- Bishop Walter Curtis failed to discharge his duties as bishop and abdicated his responsibility to protect the safety of young parishioners when incidents of sexual abuse were brought to his attention. He reassigned a number of abusive priests to other sites, where they could perpetrate more abuse. He failed to disclose to pastors or the congregations the reasons for reassignments, and he refused to meet with victims. He recklessly accepted for transfer into the diocese at least one priest with a known history of psychiatric illness, alcoholism, and sexual misconduct, and another priest who had been dismissed from seminary; both were eventually removed from the priesthood because of their sexual misconduct. He failed to report allegations of abuse to law enforcement authorities and failed to comply with Connecticut's mandated reporter law.² There is no evidence that he undertook any affirmative efforts to assist vic-

tims of abuse.

- Bishop Egan's response was profoundly unsympathetic, inadequate, and inflammatory. He openly acknowledged to his staff, and signaled to the public through his behavior, that he believed his principal responsibility was to preserve the assets and reputation of the diocese rather than to work for the well-being of survivors and secure justice for them. His indifference, if not outright hostility, to the suffering of victims resulted in a host of operational failures, including, most gravely, the reassignment of known abusive priests to locations and duties in which their abusive behavior continued. He deliberately concealed the reasons for those reassignments, failed to take seriously "red flags" of abuse, placed undue reliance on psychological evaluations, rather than personnel action, to prevent abuse, and showed more interest in whether offending priests were homosexual than in their abusive behavior. He also followed a scorched-earth litigation policy that re-victim-ized survivor plaintiffs, dissipated valuable diocesan assets in badfaith procedural maneuvers, and alienated large segments of the laity, the clergy and the wider public.
- The diocese's treatment of survivors during the Egan and Curtis administrations, coupled with its handling of accused priests, has deepened the wounds of the abused

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Accountability Report

ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT FROM PAGE 7

beyond the initial damage inflicted by the priests themselves.

- Bishop William Lori and present Bishop Caggiano have reversed the diocese's approach to reporting abuse and disciplining abusers. They have adopted and enforced policies requiring that all credible abuse allegations be reported to civil authorities, as well as "up the chain" within the Church itself. They have adopted "zero-tolerance" policies for priests (and other diocesan personnel), committing to permanently and completely removing clergy from duty for any incident of sexual abuse. They have diligently used the procedures made available to them by the Holy See to dismiss the gravest offenders from the priesthood altogether.
- Bishops Lori and Caggiano have established a new approach of outreach to, conciliation with, and support of survivors and the faithful that has been positively received in much of the diocesan community. Nonetheless, many in the diocese remain extremely skeptical of healing efforts or have been permanently alienated from the Church, a reflection of the extreme and insidious damage wrought not just by the abusers but also by the diocese's own earlier, ineffective response.
- Over the last decade and a half, new reports of abuse that occurred prior to 2002 have dwindled substantially, despite the more welcoming reporting environment. This trend suggests that the bulk of abuse in that era of the diocese, or at least the bulk of the abuse that can be reported by living survivors, has already come to light. The diocese continues to review existing allegations of historical abuse for credibility, to re-review cases for which new information has come to light, and to confirm the accuracy of its own internal list of credibly accused clergy. But, as noted in our recommendations, we urge it to expedite that review and to make information about it more easily accessible to the public.
- While we cannot be certain that sexual abuse is not currently occurring in the diocese,

we have not identified any report of abuse occurring since 2008, and this is likely attributable, in part, to the diligent new prevention and awareness programs instituted by Bishops Lori and Caggiano. The reader should also bear in mind, however, that reporting of sexual abuse is often long delayed, and the present quiet does not necessarily mean that abuse has not occurred since 2008.

- Continuing challenges include attending to the damage to survivors, to the morale and effectiveness of non-offending clergy, and to the fractured relationship between the diocese and its parishioners. In Part Eight we recommend additional reforms and new measures addressed to matters such as the procedures for investigating complaints against bishops themselves, reporting to law enforcement authorities, and refinements to the implementation of the Safe Environments program.

Recommendations

In addition to our findings regarding the diocese's historical responses to abuse, the investigation has brought to our attention several additional actions or policies that we recommend for the future. These fall into five broad categories:

- Continued outreach to survivors.
- Further review of certain previous credibility determinations about past allegations of abuse;
- Standard procedures for investigating sexual abuse allegations against bishops;
- Mandated reporting procedures;
- Changes to the Safe Environments program mechanics. These have been developed primarily by Ms. Thorp, our consultant, on the basis of best practices elsewhere with which she is familiar;
- Better engagement and inclusion of the presbyterate in the effort to combat abuse, and further response to the morale damage among priests caused by abuse by their colleagues and the diocese's past response to abuse.

A. Survivor outreach and support

Bishop Caggiano has repeatedly expressed his commitment to sur-

vivor outreach and has undertaken important initiatives. We believe that this must continue to remain one of his highest priorities.

B. Further review of certain past credibility determinations

As we previously noted in Part VI the Review Board has determined that 10 priests should not be designated as credibly accused even though settlements have been paid on behalf of those priests. Because the diocese has made such payments, and based on our review of the files of those priests, we recommend that the Review Board undertake an additional review of these matters.

We have also identified 19 priests whose matters are either currently pending before the Review Board or who have been determined by the Review Board not to be credibly accused because the information present-



ed to the board was insufficient to determine the allegations are credible. Typically these matters involve allegations based on an anonymous or deceased complainant. We recommend that as to those determinations of non-credibility based on inadequate or incomplete information the diocese undertake a limited second review to assure that there is no additional information available in connection with those matters.

C. Standard procedures for investigating allegations against bishops

The diocese's standard procedures for investigating sexual abuse allegations against priests do not apply to allegations against the diocese's foremost representative, the bishop. We understand from our discussion with Bishop Lori, who was involved in the drafting of the

Dallas Charter and Essential Norms, the basis of the local standards, that this limitation may stem from questions about the authority of the USCCB to regulate bishops (as opposed to their being regulated by the Holy See). Nonetheless, we see this discrepancy as creating both a practical gap in policy and compliance, and doubt, among the public and line clergy, about their bishops' willingness to match words to action. Bishop Caggiano's decision to voluntarily apply to himself the same standards that apply to his presbyterate has set a clear example and given a signal of solidarity to those working under him and to the diocesan community. We recommend that future bishops adopt this same practice.

In the same spirit we specifically recommend appointment of a neutral third party to investigate

D. Mandated reporting procedures

While Connecticut's mandated reporter statute allows a reporter to submit his or her reported to either the Department of Children and Families or an appropriate law enforcement agency, we believe, for reasons discussed above, that a better practice for the diocese is to ensure that all allegations are consistently communicated to law enforcement authorities. While this has been official diocesan policy since Bishop Lori's administration at least as to contemporary instances of abuse, our recommendation is that the diocese take care to follow this procedure consistently in two distinct ways:

1. The diocese should refer all historical accusations determined to be credible to the Office of the State's Attorney, even if the accusations were previously reported to the Department of Children and Families; and
2. Any future accusation of abuse received by the diocese should be reported to the Office of the State's Attorney or an appropriate police department, in addition to any mandated report to the Department of Children and Families.

E. Changes to Safe Environments mechanics

1. Anonymous Third-Party Reporting Service. Consistent with a recommendation we made earlier in the year, already adopted on a temporary basis by the diocese, we suggest maintaining an anonymous-option third-party reporting service for complaints of sexual abuse, in parallel with, not in place of, internal reporting avenues. This service should be available by telephone and online, including via the diocesan website.
2. Based on our expert consultant Barbara Thorp's review and analysis of the diocese's Safe Environments programs, we offer the following recommendations.

Handbook Recommendations

- Include all misconduct policies in the handbook, including any policies pertaining to mandatory reporting policies in cases of vulnerable persons, whether minors or not.

Accountability Report

- Mandatory reporting obligations should be stated clearly and comprehensively at the beginning of the handbook and include reference to the duty to report “as soon as practicable,” to report “non-accidental physical injury which is at variance from the history given of the injury sustained” and the duty to report suspicions of “imminent risk of harm.”
- Specify that “grooming” behavior and disregard of boundaries could qualify as “imminent risk of harm.”
- Refer to the criminal and civil penalties that might apply for failing to make mandatory reports required by law.
- Review and update the handbook whenever necessary, including when laws cited in handbook change.
- Maintain a current copy of the handbook and “executive summaries” online and, to the extent possible, include executive summaries in each language in which Mass is celebrated in the diocese.

Policy Revisions

- Continue and enforce compliance with Bishop Caggiano’s policy requiring all adults who perform services for the diocese, whether employees or independent contractors, to act as mandated reporters, explicitly extending the policy to volunteers to the extent this is not already clear.
- Background checks: use commercially available products to periodically conduct background checks between the more extensive background checks scheduled for diocese personnel.
- Explicitly require reporting of “grooming behavior” to the diocese.
- Modernize and fully integrate the diocesan record management system.

Review Board

- Recruit a member with a strong mental health background who is familiar with the assessment/testing protocols and knowledgeable about the psychological reports considered by the Review Board when determining an individual’s fitness for ministry.
- Add women to the Review Board.
- Add a survivor or family



- member of a survivor to the Review Board.
- Consider including non-Catholic members.
- Use a simple form to track claims against clergy brought to the Board, the extent to which investigations have occurred, and the Board’s recommendation to the bishop.
- Maintain Review Board records in a manner sufficient to allow re-review of recommendations.
- Refrain from requesting psychological records from the person abused.
- Maintain a readily accessible list of Review Board members, their credentials, and an explanation of the Board’s mission on the diocese’s website.
- Consider publishing an annual report of the Board’s activities.
- Give more urgency to uncompleted Review Board matters, and clear pending cases from the Board’s docket as quickly as possible.
- Establish a new definition of “credibly accused,” so that the Review Board standard is known and applied consistently.

Training

- Consider augmenting training with periodic bulletins highlighting activities of the Safe Environments program that include reminders of mandatory reporting obligations.

F. Clergy engagement and morale

While Father Callaghan’s survey of the presbyterate and Bishop Caggiano’s participation in the presentation of the results of that survey appear to have been generally received as a positive first step in repairing the damage

to clergy morale from the sexual abuse crisis and in better engaging parish priests in ongoing efforts to combat future abuse and minister to affected parishes, to be successful, that outreach must be iterative. The diocese must continue and expand the discussion begun with Father Callaghan’s survey, give serious consideration to the concerns and suggestions raised, and provide thorough and candid responses to the whole body of priests about which of those concerns and suggestions it can accommodate or adopt, and where it cannot do so, why it cannot.

Beyond this, our investigation and our expertise do not allow us to opine. But it is clear both that further measures are needed to restore morale and raise engagement, and that best practices for doing so are available from organizational leadership experts, and possibly even from other dioceses. We believe attention to the morale crisis in the priesthood

itself is an indispensable component to overcoming the sexual abuse crisis, and encourage the Diocese of Bridgeport to seek out best practices and experienced advice, including from outside the Church, on this point.

Conclusion

We conclude this report by repeating the words of Bishop Caggiano:

The Diocese of Bridgeport can never fully make right the suffering of victims and the sins of the past, but we are committed to bringing healing and reconciliation to all those affected by the crisis and to rebuild trust

Our investigation has borne out that statement. Not only abusive priests themselves, but also the diocese as an institution, and a large number of individuals who led and managed it, including, specifically, Bishops Curtis and Egan and some of their senior staff, betrayed members of its congregation, allowing

them to suffer lifelong wounds from childhood sexual abuse. The severity, the scope and the sinfulness of that abuse were clear from the very beginning of the crisis, whatever retrospective justifications those who failed to respond to the abuse may seek to offer.

The righteous anger of survivors and their families, the faithful, the judicial system, the wider society and members of the diocese’s own clerical ranks, at those responsible for permitting this tragedy is richly deserved, and while we hope reconciliation may be possible for all affected, the memory should not be erased or discounted. In examining the evidence yielded by this independent investigation, however, we have found that in the past two administrations, the diocese—represented not just by Bishops Lori and Caggiano, but equally by dedicated and upstanding administrators, priests and staff who cannot all be enumerated here—has made meaningful, well-considered, and effective strides to prevent such abuse in the future, and to begin to atone for past abuse to the extent possible. Those efforts demand continuous improvement and sustained energy to further succeed, and in that respect, our investigation has confirmed what readers likely already knew: that the Diocese of Bridgeport’s failures to deal properly with sexual abuse in the past unmistakably arose from the carelessness and moral confusion of the people who led and staffed it. Sustaining its new approach, and preventing another such tragedy, into the future will turn equally on continued diligence and moral clarity in those who come after them. ■

ABUSE CRISIS FROM PAGE 3

“Another legitimate and important concern in repairing the damage wrought by the sexual abuse crisis involves the operational effectiveness and morale of the non-offending priests who make up by far the majority of the presbyterate. During our investigation, we have heard from both clergy and lay people (including some survivors and their family members), that because of the mistrust, confusion and isolation sown by sexual abuse and by the diocese’s response, they worry about the ability of

the many good and able priests to continue to carry out their work effectively and to provide for the faithful in the way that both the Catholic community and the Church hierarchy expect.”

“Having lived through this dark and sad hour, the Church has been changed perhaps for the rest of our lifetimes and beyond,” Caggiano said at press conference marking the conclusion of the year-long investigation. He said he was also very hopeful that the truth-telling will lead to reconciliation and

renewal.

The bishop concluded his remarks at the press conference by appealing to “all people of goodwill” to join together to protect children and end the evils of abuse.

“Let us join together our efforts to create truly safe environments for all of our children, wherever they may be, wherever they find themselves, so that we can eradicate this evil and this crime from our midst no matter where it is found, no matter where it lurks in the shadows.” ■

Diocesan 2019-2020 Operating Budget

Diocese releases budget

BRIDGEPORT—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano and the Finance Council of the Diocese of Bridgeport have approved a fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 operating budget with a total projection of \$19,966,098 in revenues and \$19,845,450 in expenditures, representing a \$120,648 surplus.

“This budget and projected surplus represent our obligation to operate with fiscal responsibility and manage our resources,” said Michael Hanlon CPA, chief



MICHAEL HANLON CPA

financial officer (CFO) of the diocese. “The Diocese of Bridgeport is continuing on its path to financial stability by reporting an operating budget for fiscal year 2019-2020 with a projected surplus for the third consecutive year.”

Hanlon said the budget continues to fulfill previously identified goals and mandates by Bishop Caggiano and the Diocesan Finance Council to annually present a balance or surplus budget and to eliminate the reliance of one-time revenue sources such as proceeds from property sales.

“We continue to be stewards of all funds entrusted to us as we continue fiscally responsible and prudent decision making at all levels of the diocesan management team,” said Hanlon.

The approved budget projects a 7 percent decline in revenues and a 7.35 percent decrease in expenses from the 2018-2019 approved budget. The decline in revenues is related to a planned and strategic goal reduction for the Annual Catholic Appeal with the continuing success of the “We Stand with Christ” capital campaign.

“The bishop feels very strongly that our donors have been extremely generous to the capital

campaign and it is unfair to ask them also to continue to support the Annual Catholic Appeal at historic levels,” Hanlon said.

Department leaders closely examined their proposed budgets and reduced projected expenses to minimums necessary to functionally operate. Certain duties and responsibilities were realigned that also allowed for the elimination of several positions. In addition, unfilled positions were not re-budgeted, he said.

The two major sources of revenue for the annual operating budget are the Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA), which supports Diocesan mission related programs including Catholic Education, Works of Charity and Pastoral Services, Catechesis and Evangelization, and Clergy (vocations, formation, and retired priests), and Cathedraticum, the traditional assessment on parishes to support the administration and operating costs of the Catholic Center.

Contributions and grants allocated from the Annual Catholic Appeal to diocesan mission-related entities represent approximately 18.8 percent of this budget. These contributions and grants support the missions of St. John Fisher Seminary, Catholic Charities of Fairfield County, St. Catherine Academy for Special Needs, the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport, the Cardinal Shehan Center and the Bishop’s Scholarship Fund within Foundations in Education.

Hanlon said salaries and benefits continue to represent approximately 50.5 percent of the overall budget, Hanlon said, noting, “We need to continue to reward our diocesan employees for their dedication to our mission, thus market-rate salary increases have been budgeted again.”

The diocese continues to work to manage and control healthcare related expenses and benefits while providing affordable comprehensive coverage for employees and their families. Additionally, a managed care initiated has been implemented targeted to our clergy focused on healthy life initiatives and to help control unexpected medical expenses.

Hanlon reported that the diocese also continues to reduce

the outstanding balance of the Knights of Columbus loan and related interest expense. This loan has been reduced from \$15 million to \$3.5 million since 2014 resulting in decreased interest expense and plans to eliminate this debt should be achieved in the near future.

Hanlon said that Deacon Patrick Toole, secretary of the curia and episcopal delegate for Administration, continues to look at our organizational structure to maximize effectiveness and efficiencies. Deacon Toole recently led reorganizational efforts at the Diocesan Catholic Cemeteries to refocus on pastoral needs for families and their loved ones at their time of need.

Andrew Schulz, director of real estate and Anne McCrory, chief legal and real estate officer, have continued to identify new areas of revenue while overseeing the diocesan property portfolio.

“They continue to do a remarkable job in identifying opportunities to generate alternative sources of revenue from property leases by marketing vacant diocesan owned buildings for use,” he said.

The long-term underfunded liability obligations related to the frozen diocesan lay employee pension plan continue to be an area of challenge for the diocese.

Although initial steps have been taken to reduce this underfunded liability based on a strategy developed by the lay pension committee, consisting of finance council members, the long term pension liability remains one of our largest challenges. Additional solutions and funding sources are frequently examined in efforts to reduce the burden of this liability.

In December 2013, Bishop Caggiano took a major step toward financial transparency when he released the audited financial statements for years 2010, 2011 and 2012. Audited financial statements for the subsequent periods ending December 31, 2013 and 2014, as well as financial statements for the periods ending June 30, 2015 through June 30, 2018 have been released annually. All reports can be found online.

(To learn more, visit the diocesan website: www.bridgeportdiocese.com/financialreports.)

The Bridgeport Roman Catholic Diocesan Corporation

Operational Budget — July 2019-June 2020

Revenue

Annual Catholic Appeal	\$8,000,000
Cathedraticum Assessment	6,878,300
Rental and Other Income	2,384,397
Cemeteries Contribution	1,437,000
Contributions and Bequests	1,266,401
Total Revenue	\$19,966,098

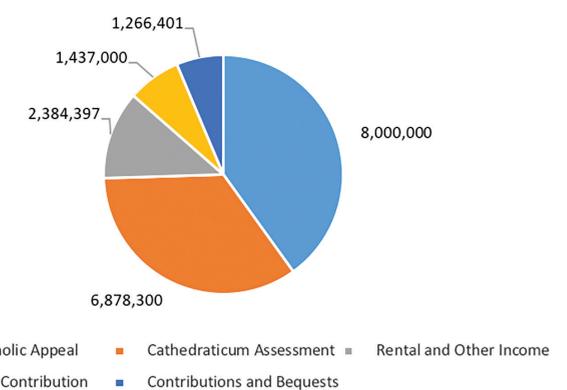
Expenses

Salaries and Benefits	\$10,019,727
Grants and Contributions	3,724,187
Contracted Services	2,006,544
Travel, Seminars, Dues and Other	1,124,774
Occupancy and Insurance	1,109,398
Professional Fees and Services	897,697
Office, Postage and Printing	723,576
Interest	157,500
Other Supplies and Expense	82,047
Total Expenses	\$19,845,450

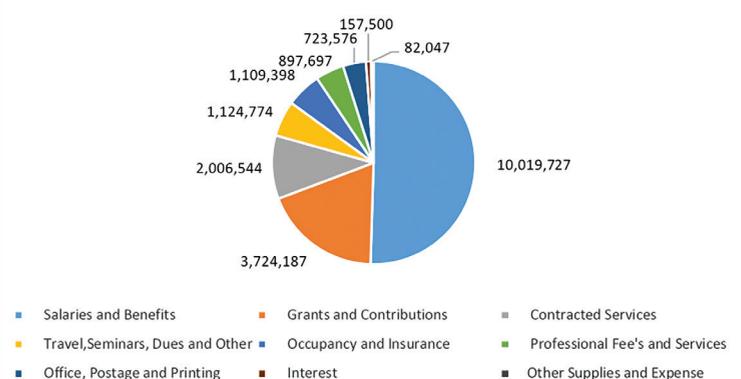
SURPLUS FROM OPERATIONS — BEFORE DEPRECIATION

\$120,648

Operational Budget July 2019-June 2020 Total Budgeted Revenue \$19,966,098



Operational Budget July 2019- June 2020 Total Budgeted Expenses \$19,845,450



Communications Survey

Readers 'Up' on *Fairfield County Catholic*

By **BRIAN D. WALLACE**

BRIDGEPORT—More than 500 readers of *Fairfield County Catholic* and users of diocesan social media responded to the recent communications survey and expressed high levels of satisfaction with the print and digital publications of the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Readers of both print and online media in large numbers said that the diocesan communications vehicles do a good job of informing them about the bishop's goals while also helping them to better understand their Catholic faith.

The questionnaire was published in the August issue of *Fairfield County Catholic* and emailed to 30,000 parishioners who have signed up to receive a weekly email newsletter from the diocese.

The survey was commissioned to get readers feedback on the *Fairfield County Catholic* monthly newspaper, the diocesan website, and diocesan social media programs including its presence on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and other platforms.

The survey instrument was designed, tabulated and analyzed by Kenn Devane, president and CEO of MineTech Inc. of Danbury in association with the Communications Office of the diocese.

Devane, a parishioner of St. Elizabeth Seton Parish in Ridgefield, has donated his time and expertise to the diocese on many projects including the design of a "data warehouse." His firm works with companies and institutions to help them make better use of their data via proprietary text and data mining software.

"Everybody likes it, everybody reads it. *Fairfield County Catholic* is their primary source of information about the diocese and the bishop. They enjoy reading it and makes them feel more connected to the diocese," said Mr. Devane, who added that it's important for any organization to get feedback from its readers and supporters.

Devane said the survey sample was very solid and that many national newspapers base their findings on as few as 500-700 responses.

Readers answered the survey

either by mailing in the printed form included in *Fairfield County Catholic*, or by going online and submitting their answers electronically.

Overall, those who responded expressed a high level of satisfaction with *Fairfield County Catholic* newspaper

However, they also offered many suggestions for change and improvement including more requests for more coverage of their own parish activities.

The survey found the most popular sources of information about the diocese and the local Church continue to be two print vehicles, *Fairfield County Catholic* and the parish bulletin, although social media continues to gain ground with readers.

Fairfield County Catholic newspaper was ranked the highest source of information about the diocese with 46.1 percent of those who answered online and 64.4 percent of those who filled out the print form indicating it's their major source of news.

Stories about Bishop Caggiano along with his own writings and videos, information on diocesan events and initiatives and profiles of priests and laity were the most popular news items for all those who responded to the survey.

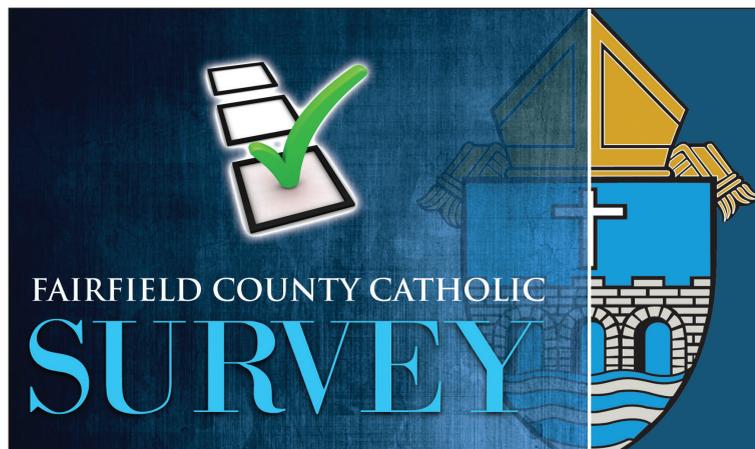
"I feel very close to Bishop Frank. The way he thinks and discusses faith resonates with me. He is a gifted catechist and ambassador of our Lord," said a reader.

Respondents in large numbers also said they enjoyed *Fairfield County Catholic* lay columnists who share their real-life thoughts on faith and contemporary issues as they seek holiness in every-day life.

"I find the columns/editorials to be food for thought. The parish news is great to keep up on and the profiles of priests and laity are inspiring," said one respondent.

Based on the written and typed online comments it appears that the print version of *Fairfield County Catholic* also does a good job of reaching Catholics who may not attend Mass on a weekly basis but feel better connected to the diocesan community as a result of receiving the newspaper.

More than half of the online and paper respondents completely agreed that diocesan communications help them better understand



their faith and more than half of all respondents said the stories inspire them to become more involved in the Church.

The survey also documented the digital divide in the diocese with older readers in large majority approving of a print source of information while young readers sought news online.

One of the major findings of the

report is that those who seek out news about the diocese tend to rely on one source of information—either the newspaper, the website or social media—but are often unaware of the other platforms.

Most readers of *Fairfield County Catholic* age 70 and over are not connected to the internet or have little interest or awareness that they could read the news

online daily through the diocesan website. More than 60 percent of those who read the paper reported that they have not visited the website.

On the other hand, 79.1 percent of those who responded to the survey online have visited the diocesan website for latest news and information.

In the online electronic responses, about 33 percent of readers under 50 indicated that they use social media as their first or second source of information.

Older readers said they enjoy receiving the newspaper and holding it in their hand, and they are grateful that the diocese sends the paper to them free of charge.

"As the publication moves from paper mailing to electronic, please make sure not to discontinue the paper for the faithful, long-time members who look forward to it," one woman wrote. ■



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Ordination

Clark to be ordained to the priesthood

By ELIZABETH CLYONS

DARIEN—On Saturday, October 12, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano will ordain Deacon Michael Clark to the priesthood. The Ordination Mass will be celebrated at St. Thomas More in Darien at 11 am. Deacon Clark was ordained to the Transitional Diaconate on February 2, 2019.

Clark was born in Chichester, England on May 5, 1983 to Timothy and Lesley Clark, who are both parishioners at St. Mary's Abbey, Buckfast, Buckfastleigh, UK. He attended Exeter Cathedral School in Exeter, UK from which he graduated in 1996. Clark then attended Devonport High School for Boys in Plymouth, UK from which he graduated in 2001.

He studied at Cambridge University, graduating with a master's in theology and law in 2005. He studied for and was called to the bar in 2008 and practiced law as a barrister for five years. At the same time he

was singing professionally at Exeter Cathedral and later moved to Buckfast Abbey as director of music, establishing a new professional choir of men and women from scratch.

In 2012, Clark entered seminary to study philosophy and theology. He received an S.T.B. from the Pontifical Gregorian University in 2016 and studied at the Pontifical Liturgical Institute.

In 2016, he visited the Diocese of Bridgeport as a guest but began to discern the possibility of a call to serve as a priest in Bridgeport, upon returning to seminary.

Clark arrived at St. Thomas More in Darien in November of 2017 to discern the call further and started a second assignment at the Catholic Academy of Stamford/Trinity Catholic High

School in August 2018.

Clark completed major seminary in 2018 at the Venerable English College in Rome. Clark has been teaching Theology and Music at Cardinal Kung Academy in Stamford and teaching Religion at Trinity Catholic High School. He was assigned episcopal chaplain to TCHS and CKA in February 2019 and will

remain as such upon ordination to the priesthood.

Father Clark will celebrate his first Mass at St. Joseph Church in

South Norwalk on Sunday, October 13 at 10 am. Father Peter Lenox will be concelebrating the Mass, along with Msgr. David P. Charters and Father Anthony Doe, who will both also be concelebrating at the Mass of Ordination. Deacon Gauthier

"I take this next step with a profound sense of peace and joy."



A CALL TO SERVE IS A PRECIOUS GIFT— Deacon Michael Clark will be ordained to the priesthood at St. Thomas More Church in Darien on October 12. "I take this next step with a profound sense of peace and joy," said the Cambridge University graduate and native of Buckfastleigh, UK.

Vincent will also be part of the ceremony. Patricia A. Catino and Lisa L. Von Stuelpnagel will be bringing up the gifts and Liz C. Sweeney and Barbara J. Ferrone will be readers.

"I am reminded every day that a call to serve the People of God as a priest is a unique and precious gift," Deacon Clark shared. "It is truly humbling to accept the invitation to labor in this corner of the vineyard Our Lord loves so much. I hope and pray that, with the help of His grace, I may be a good and loyal servant of the Church to the people of Fairfield County."

Deacon Clark continued, "It was out of love for them that the Lord called me from my own homeland to these shores, and out of love for Him I will expend every last fiber of my being to preach the Gospel. Trusting in the prayers of Our Lady, St. Michael, St. Augustine and all the Saints, I take this next step with a profound sense of peace and joy and to everyone who has encouraged me in my own vocation with countless prayers and kindnesses I offer heartfelt and sincere thanks."

He ended by saying, "Pray for me."

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- Online and print readers cited *Fairfield County Catholic* as their **major source of information about the diocese**
- Readers of *Fairfield County Catholic* online and in print reported **high levels of satisfaction with the newspaper and website**, and a willingness to patronize our advertisers
- *Fairfield County Catholic* is mailed **directly into almost 100,000 homes throughout the diocese**

A NOTE TO ADVERTISERS: In addition to placing ads in the *Fairfield County Catholic* newspaper and online through the diocesan website, you can also purchase a schedule on Veritas Catholic Radio 1350 AM. Veritas is an independently owned radio station that broadcasts in association with the Diocese of Bridgeport.

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Annual Diocesan Red Mass

Discussing the Catholic view of climate change

By ELIZABETH CLYONS

FAIRFIELD—Mr. Jose Aguto, Esq., associate director of The Catholic Climate Covenant will be the speaker at this year's Diocesan Red Mass and Breakfast set for Sunday, October 27, 9 am at Fairfield University's Egan Chapel.

The celebrant and homilist will be the Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, bishop of the Diocese of Bridgeport and the breakfast program will be in the Oak Room immediately following Mass.

Mr. Aguto will provide insights on the Catholic Church's approach to climate change and how Catholics can contribute to climate solutions, as the mission of The Catholic Climate Covenant is to advance the U.S. Catholic Church's efforts in the care for God's creation.



CATHOLIC APPROACH TO CLIMATE CHANGE—Attorney Jose Aguto, associate director of the Catholic Climate Covenant, will be the featured speaker at this year's Red Mass set for October 27, 9 am at Fairfield University. The Red Mass celebrates legal professionals throughout the diocese. All are welcome.

Prior to joining the Covenant, Aguto worked for the Friends Committee on National Legislation, the National Congress of American Indians and EPA's American Indian

Environmental Office on climate, energy, Native American, environmental and natural resource issues. Jose served in the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Infantry Division and is a graduate of

Brown University and Villanova Law School. Jose and his family are parishioners at the Basilica of St. Mary in Alexandria, Virginia.

This year's St. Thomas More Awardee is Attorney John L. Altieri, Jr. a partner with Fairfield & Firriolo PLLC in Fairfield, Connecticut. John is a proud graduate of St. Joseph School in Norwalk, Fairfield Prep, Georgetown University and Georgetown University Law School. John has had a long and distinguished legal career, serving as the head of the New York litigation department at O'Melveny and Myers and as a founding member of Boutin and Altieri, now Altieri and Firriolo. Throughout his legal career, John has made pro bono legal service a major part of his practice. For the last fifteen years he has modeled leadership in championing the

cause of Malta House. With compassion and commitment, John has served the women of Malta House in order that they and their children may have a better life.

For his humble dedication to the cause, this year's Red Mass will honor John with the St. Thomas More Award for Service.

Bishop Caggiano has urged all legal professionals including attorneys, legislators, judges and other legal professionals to attend this year's Red Mass and consider joining the St. Thomas More Society, an association of Catholic attorneys with a long history of charitable work.

The cost is \$50 per person. For tickets: eventbrite.com/e/2019-diocesan-red-mass-breakfast-tickets-66380990329.

(For more information contact dtietjen@diobpt.org or call: 203.416.1385.)

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Parish News

St. Thomas More dedicates 're-created' church

By **JOE PISANI**

DARIEN—The parishioners of St. Thomas More filled the pews for a Mass of Dedication as their new church was consecrated by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, who praised them and their pastor for their generosity and commitment to pass along the faith to future generations.

"We have come here to celebrate this remarkable next chapter in the life of your parish, my friends," Bishop Caggiano said. "It is a moment made possible not simply because of your generosity, which is outstanding in so many ways, but also because of your commitment to your faith and to the fact that you have built a beautiful, dignified and reverent space so that these bricks can hold 'these bricks' — the living stones of the Church that you and

I form."

Father Paul G. Murphy was praised for his vision, leadership and hard work during the 3-year project, which began on the 50th anniversary of the parish in 2016 with the "Preparing for the Next Generation" capital campaign.

The project completely recreated the original church, which was completed in 1973. The parish hall was also renovated and provided a temporary place of worship during the redesign of the sanctuary, nave and narthe.

There is a new altar of sacrifice, which contains a relic of the English martyr St. Edmund Campion, SJ, and ambo and baptismal font. Custom-made stained glass windows of the 12 Apostles surround the nave in the same position as DaVinci's Last Supper.

Central to the new church is a crucifix and wood-carved statues created by a company in Oberammergau, a village in the Bavarian Alps renowned for its woodcarving since the 12th century. Father Murphy worked with the wood carver to design the corpus.

An altar of reserve, along with bronze Stations of the Cross, came from St. Madeleine Sophie Parish outside of Philadelphia after it closed, along with devotional altars to the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph.

There is also a new all-digital organ along with a new security system, porcelain tile floor, pews, a state-of-the-art audio system, computer-controlled lighting, improved heating and air conditioning, exterior renovations, 8-foot mahogany entrance doors, new restrooms and a confessional room. The steeple was refurbished and its cross was re-gilded.

The pews, kneelers, Stations of the Cross, tabernacle cross, baptismal font and other liturgical furnishings that were replaced were donated to St. Peter's Church in Ghana.

During his homily, Bishop Caggiano recalled a trip he made with his family to the Duomo Cathedral in Florence, when his young niece Patty 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, "Be quiet and don't talk in church." She repeated the question again outside and he was at a loss to answer her.

"I fumbled, stumbled, said something and then suggested we go for gelato—that got her attention," 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."

"My hope is that this newly



LIVING STONES OF THE CHURCH—Bishop Caggiano recently joined St. Thomas More Pastor Fr. Paul Murphy dedicate the re-created Church in Darien. The bishop thanked parishioners for their generosity and along their faith and the new Church to the next generation.

built church, your spiritual home, will be for you a true sanctuary," he said. "That it will inspire you to grow in holiness by your prayers, your celebration of the sacraments, your fidelity to the Gospel and the teachings of the Church...and by your loving service to one another, all in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior."

In his remarks, Father Murphy said, "It is a day of great joy and thanksgiving for all of St. Thomas More Parish."

He thanked the bishop, consultants, committees and the parishioners "who so generously supported, patiently persevered and offered countless prayers for the successful culmination of not just a renovated church but, we might say, a 'recreated' parish church."

He said that consecrating the new altar within the new walls claimed them as a place set apart because they were eternally consecrated to God "as a worthy place for him to dwell among us here on Earth, for this space is now declared forevermore holy ground, a living sanctuary."

As in the sacrament of baptism, "Each of us made of earthly clay is once and for all declared sacred and for all time claimed to belong and be a sanctuary of God's Holy Spirit."

Father Murphy said that St. Thomas More, the patron of the parish, understood the fundamental link between the two sanctuaries — the Holy Spirit in us and God dwelling in his Church.

"Thomas More was as busy as any of us," he said. He was a husband, father of five, law-

yer, scholar, judge, speaker of Parliament and Chancellor.

"And yet in all of his busyness, and with all the burdens of worldly responsibilities, he made it his practice to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion every day of his life," Father Murphy said. "Everything our patron saint ever said or did was ordered toward the salvation of his soul and the souls of those he loved."

"Dwelling in our midst, here in this sacred space, the Lord continues to abide with us," he said. "Every time we gather to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and the priest consecrates the bread and wine, the Lord makes himself truly present on the altar in the Sacred Body and Precious Blood."

Looking to the future, Father Murphy said, "Jesus Christ abides with us at all the great milestones of our life. It is here where infants will be baptized, youth will be confirmed, where couples will be joined together in marriage, where our sins are absolved and where we gather to commend our deceased loved ones to the infinite mercy of God, and to be renewed in our faith in eternal life."

Trustee Joe Roxe recalled the challenges of the building project and said that the capital campaign had been far more successful than anticipated, "which to me is a vote of confidence in our pastor and a vote of confidence in the programs that the parish offers."

"There are many surprises when you open an old building like this, and they are never good

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 20



St. Catherine
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8:30 am Discussion

9:00 am Questions and Answers

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St. Catherine Academy

Celebrating twenty years!

By ELIZABETH CLYONS

FAIRFIELD—Students, families, faculty and staff recently gathered at the St. Catherine Center for Special Needs to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of St. Catherine Academy.

then by His servants who are you and I.”

“That is what it means to be slaves to God,” the bishop once again referred to the Gospel, “It does not mean to lose our freedom but to use it to give Him glory...and there is no better



In his homily, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, who was principal celebrant of the Mass along with concelebrant Msgr. Robert Weiss, pastor of St. Rose of Lima parish in Newtown, reflected on the Gospel message, “You cannot serve both God and money” (Luke 16: 10-13).

The bishop said, “Jesus is reminding us of our priorities.” He continued, “To be a disciple of Jesus Christ means that we learn to see the world as God sees the world...and that takes a lifetime to do.”

“We are here because we are blessed that there are women and men, staff and leaders, who for 20 years have dared to see the world the way God sees the world,” said the bishop. “For the truth is, we live in a world that perceives those in need of any type, even those with special needs, as a problem to be solved, an obstacle to be overcome, a challenge to be addressed.”

The bishop posed the question, “But what does God see?” He answered, “God sees beloved daughters and sons who reflect His beauty to the world. He sees them all as He sees us...as a very part of His great design.”

“How blessed are we that for 20 years we have St. Catherine’s Academy and those who lead it, who see the world differently,” the bishop said. “Everyone who comes here is here because they are beloved, first by God and

way to do that than to love all we meet regardless of what they can give us back...oftentimes being blind to the fact that the most in need are the ones who can give us the most back in the long run.”

The bishop praised the academy, saying, “That is why this mission in our diocese is absolutely essential and central to all that we do. For if we did not have this mission we would not fully see the world the way God asks us to see the world.”

The offertory procession was brought up by students and families from St. Catherine Center, and many reflected that one of the most special moments of the Mass was when students, faculty and staff gathered together to sing “This Little Light of Mine.”

Music for the liturgy was provided by Joseph Jacovino, music director of St. Rose of Lima Parish and Erin Kathleen Aoyama and the gathered were invited to enjoy a reception afterwards.

“We are grateful for past and present friends and families of St. Catherine Academy. Your generosity of spirit and treasures has secured the future of our mission. You are walking with our children and young adults in their life’s journey. Thank you for your joyful commitment. May God continue to bless you,” said Helen Burland, executive director of St. Catherine Center. ■

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The Leadership Institute

Update of Funeral Norms

By DR. PATRICK DONOVAN

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano has issued a decree updating the Norms Governing Funeral celebrations in the Diocese of Bridgeport. The decree, issued September 15, 2019, states that the norms are effective ad experimentum on November 2, 2019, the Feast of All Souls.

"From the beginning of the Church, Christian funeral rites and burial have been an important spiritual and pastoral practice," Bishop Caggiano said in the decree. "Catholic faith understands death as the entrance

into eternity. It expresses a hope in the resurrection of the dead won for us in Christ's Death and Resurrection."

The bishop continued, "We also recognize the value of prayer for the deceased and show reverence for the body which remains. Since the Christian response to death stands as a witness to Christian belief regarding life here and hereafter, our rites and ceremonies connected with Christian death and burial unite us to the Paschal Mystery of Christ's victory over sin and death and must remain consonant with this belief."

To discuss the funeral norms and to learn more about the Catholic understanding of death, last judgement, heaven, and hell, all are invited to a workshop, hosted by the office for Catholic Cemeteries and The Leadership Institute on Saturday, October 19, 2019. Registration is available online.

The workshop will feature a keynote presentation by Peter Kreeft, Ph.D., a professor of philosophy at Boston College and a noted Catholic apologist and philosopher. He is a convert to the Catholic Church from reformed

Protestantism and the author of more than 100 books. Following Dr. Kreeft's presentation and question and answers, there will be three workshop opportunities for participants to learn more about various topics. Workshops include: A) The stages of (and planning for) a funeral liturgy, B) Writing words of remembrance (a hands-on workshop), and C) Estate planning.

Online Resources

In conjunction with the updated funeral norms, The Leadership Institute has created a webpage to help the faithful navigate the norms, learn more about Catholic funerals and even begin to plan their own funeral. Below is a closer look at the resources available online:

Funeral Norms

Our Catholic faith understands death as the entrance into eternity, an event which calls the community into a response of prayerful support. The revised norms for funerals outline the practices in the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Overview of Catholic Funeral Rites

The Catholic funeral rite is divided into several stations, or parts, each with its own purpose. For this reason, the bishop suggests following the complete structure and making use of each station.

Frequently Asked Questions for Catholic Funerals

This group of questions deals directly with the norms, funeral practices and more. If you find that your question is not answered, please email institute@diobpt.org.

How to Plan for a Catholic Funeral

The Catholic funeral is not "a celebration of life," but a beautiful rite expressing the Christian hope in eternal life and the resurrection of the body on the last day.

Overview or Symbols used in a Catholic Funeral

Catholic funerals employ a number of Christian symbols. Learn what each one stands for here.

Suggested Music

Music and song choice should be supportive of the readings of the funeral as well as comforting to its participants.

Suggested Readings

Taken directly from the Order of Christian Funerals, you can read all selections for First, Second, and Gospel readings for the Catholic Funeral rite.

Catholic Understanding of Cremation

The increasing popularity of cremation as a means of final disposition has required some allowances and adjustments to be made to Catholic funeral practices.

Prayers for Death and Dying

There are prayers appropriate for every stage of passage into eternal life. Find them listed here in this resource.

Funeral Planning Sheet

Use this tool to plan your own funeral. The resource guides you through choosing readings, songs and more. It is intended to help you understand why we do what we do as Catholics and help you to plan accordingly.

Guide to Writing Words of Remembrance

Though often misunderstood, the Catholic funeral does not include eulogies. It does provide, however, an opportunity for someone to share words of remembrance. Within the context of Divine Worship, this is a chance for a loved one to connect the life of the deceased with the mercy and love of Jesus Christ. The new norms allow each pastor to decide if words of remembrance may be included at funeral in their respective parishes. This guide is for those who have been asked to assume this honor.

(To see these resources, register for *The Last Things* workshop and learn more about *The Leadership Institute*, please visit www.formationreimagined.org.)

THE LAST THINGS: A Conversation with Dr. Peter Kreeft

October 19 • 9am

Queen of Saints Hall at the Catholic Center, 238 Jewett Ave., Bridgeport, CT

In conjunction with the promulgation of the Revised Funeral Norms, all are invited to gather and hear about the Catholic understanding of death, judgment, heaven and hell. After Dr. Kreeft's presentation, there will be a time for questions and answers.

Workshops will follow:

- ▶ Stages of (and planning for) a funeral liturgy
- ▶ Writing words of remembrance (a hands-on workshop)
- ▶ Estate planning

9:00 am Doors open – *hospitality and registration*
9:30 am Opening prayer
9:45 am *The Last Things* with Dr. Peter Kreeft (followed by Q&A)
11:00 am Break
11:15 am Workshops begin
12:30 pm Depart

There is no cost to attend. All are welcome.

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Keynote Speaker:
Dr. Peter Kreeft

Peter Kreeft, Ph.D., is a professor of philosophy at Boston College and a noted Catholic apologist and philosopher. He is a convert to the Catholic Church from reformed Protestantism. He loves his five grandchildren, four children, one wife, one cat and one God. To learn more, please visit www.PeterKreeft.com.

Register online:
formationreimagined.org

Stay tuned next month
for an update on the
Family Bible Challenge!

Papal Nuncio to SHU Students: It is love that will attract believers

By **ELIZABETH CLYONS**

FAIRFIELD—As Sacred Heart University kicked-off its 10th anniversary celebration of the Holy Spirit Chapel, it warmly welcomed Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio of the United States to speak about the Holy Father's recent Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Christus Vivit* (Christ is Alive).

"Young people are the now of

every human life, shown to us through God's mercy and love.

"The Holy Father wants us to examine whether our faith is a series of teachings or if it is something alive...an encounter with a person, the Risen Lord," said the nuncio. He posed the question, "Is He alive in you?"

During the discussion portion of the colloquium presentation, a CIT faculty member addressed what the nuncio said about 'being

importance of building fraternity. "Are we today in the U.S. building fraternity or not?" he asked. "I am not always certain of that. Do we prefer this polarization? This has to do with our faith," said the nuncio.

Archbishop Pierre is a long-

time member of the Sacred Heart University family, having received an honorary doctorate from the university in 2017.

The events of the 10th anniversary celebration continued with a Mass in the Chapel of the Holy

Spirit celebrated by Archbishop Pierre and a youth festival which featured displays of work by campus ministry and volunteer programs and service learning.

(For more information visit: www.sacredheart.edu.)



10TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOLY SPIRIT CHAPEL AT SHU—Archbishop Christophe Pierre Apostolic Nuncio of the United States urged Sacred Heart University students to find joy in their faith and said "the Church must form loving communities where people experience the presence of the Risen Lord."

God," the archbishop addressed a room filled with young people, which, faculty members commented, provided the perfect atmosphere for a discussion on the post-synodal response document which focuses on youth, faith and vocational discernment.

The apostolic nuncio echoed the words of Pope Francis as he encouraged the gathered, saying, "God calls each of us by name to serve Him in a unique way. God calls you to holiness by being yourself."

He explained that Christianity is not simply teaching and rules but it is a proclamation. Quoting Pope Benedict XVI, the nuncio said, "Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction."

Archbishop Pierre encouraged the young people to be themselves, exactly as they are and to proclaim the faith through the way they live their lives. The archbishop explained that in a difficult world, Pope Francis wants young people to know that they are priceless, they are loved and that there is great value in

yourself,' asking what those who feel like they cannot be themselves should do. The nuncio responded that "even though a lot of times we do not feel loved, Jesus says, 'I love you.'" And it is this love, the archbishop explained, that we must show to one another.

"It is love," the archbishop said, "not being preached at, that will attract believers," explaining that the attractiveness of Christianity will show through the lives of young people.

"We cannot be Christians alone," said the nuncio, "being a Christian is belonging to a person through community." The archbishop explained that this was how the early Church was started, through the apostles' testimonies and the witnesses they gave of their encounters with Christ.

When asked what young people in the U.S. can learn from young people in other countries, the nuncio, who has worked in ten different countries, said that "the U.S. is a place where you meet the whole world."

"We are different and difference is a beauty," Archbishop Pierre said. "We are different but we are the same."

The nuncio spoke about the

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EDITORIAL

An Historic Report

In the months following the Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report in 2018, the diocese received hundreds of phone calls, letters and social media comments concerning the failure of Church leadership to be transparent and accountable for the abuse crisis.

Most of those who called or wrote said two things in common: they demanded a complete and final accounting of abuse in the Diocese of Bridgeport—and they said they had faith that Bishop Frank J. Caggiano would get it done.

The bishop delivered on that promise in an historic press conference on Tuesday, October 1, when Judge Robert Holzberg issued the Accountability Report. (The major findings and recommendations are included in this issue and the report in its entirety is available online at www.bridgeportdiocese.com)

With the release of the much anticipated report, it is hoped that a great burden has been lifted from victims, families and all those who have suffered so long in silence. In many ways the report is a vindication of their stories and their struggle to be heard by the Church.

The judge reported his findings in the starkest terms: “The single gravest moral and legal lapse was the consistent practice of Bishops Lawrence Shehan, Walter Curtis and Edward Egan—over four decades—of leaving abusive priests in service, and thereby making it possible for them to continue committing abusive acts,” the report said.

How could it have happened? Why didn't the Church respond with compassion and justice? In the report Judge Holzberg provides some answers to those questions while also providing context to the era when the abuse occurred.

“We have attempted to remind ourselves, as we hope our readers will, of the different era in which the majority of the abuse cases we have studied occurred. Since that period, society's understanding of the appropriate response to child sexual abuse has in part evolved. Criminal statutes, child protection laws, the psychological understanding of the dynamics of abuse and treatment, education, prevention and training techniques have advanced. What has not changed, however, is society's fundamental recognition that sexual abuse of children is morally wrong and deeply injurious.”

The report draws a clear line between the way abuse was handled in the first decades of the diocese and the significant efforts over the past 18 years by Bishop William E. Lori and Bishop Frank J. Caggiano. “If there were a subtitle to this report it might be “A Tale of Two Cities,” reflecting the incalculable damage and injury inflicted on the diocese particularly during the tenures of Bishops Walter Curtis and Edward Egan, and the persistent, meaningful efforts made by their successors, Bishops William Lori and Frank Caggiano, to restore stability, trust and faith in the diocese.”

The report also describes the impact of the crisis on “non-offending priests who make up by far the majority of the presbyterate.” It concludes that “they too have suffered as a result of the mistrust, confusion and isolation sown by sexual abuse and by the diocese's response.”

Where do we go from here? The bishop has publicly pledged to follow the judge's recommendations—many of which are refinements of efforts already underway. The diocese also moves forward with one of the best Safe Environments program in the nation, the support of courageous survivors who have worked to lead the reconciliation, and a zero tolerance policy for abuse.

Judge Holzberg and his team have delivered a report that victims, advocates and faithful have long demanded and one that has been praised for its transparency. It is institutional truth-telling at the highest level—painful, complete and a matter of public record for the world to see.

Closure may not come quickly—or at all—for those who have suffered and all those affected by crisis. In the press conference, the Bishop noted that it takes only minutes to break trust and may take a lifetime to rebuild it. Through his courage, unflinching leadership, and complete transparency, the diocese has taken a major step in that direction. ■

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Blessing of the Animals

The Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi on October 4. This Blessing of Animals is often conducted in remembrance of Saint Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures. St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull (pictured), as well as many other parishes around the diocese commemorated this great saint's feast day with a Blessing of the Animals ceremony, which has become a much anticipated and favorite tradition for many. ■



CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

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



PAROCHIAL VICAR
FATHER DAMIAN K. PIELESZ,
from Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Wilton, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Mary Parish, Ridgefield. Effective date was September 16.

RETIREMENT
FATHER DANIEL B. DEVORE,
from Chaplain, VA Medical Center in West Palm Beach, Florida, to retirement. Effective date was September 28.

FATHER EUGENE R. SZANTYR,
from Pastor, Saint Andrew Parish, Bridgeport, to retirement. Effective date is January 31, 2020.

RESIDENCE
FATHER ERIC W. SILVA, from Saint Augustine Rectory, Bridgeport, to Our Lady of Fatima Rectory, Wilton. Effective date was September 30. Father Silva will remain Episcopal Chaplain to Saint Joseph High School.

LEAVING DIOCESE
FATHER MARCELO R. LOPRESTI, IVE, from Parochial Vicar, Saint Mary Parish, Stamford, to the Institute of the Incarnate Word or other location. Effective date is November 1.

Monsignor Thomas W. Powers
Vicar General
October, 2019

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Editorial



Wholeness is a journey

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.

Kintsugi is the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery by filling or reattaching the broken areas with gold dust or lacquer. The word's literal meaning is "golden repair," and the end result is a beautiful piece of art, a piece that is even more beautiful for having been broken.

Whenever I read about this technique or see a piece re-created in this way, I am reminded of my own life. For anyone who battles seasons of darkness or doubt, "get-

ting well" is a constant journey, "repairing," a lifelong process.

There are many days that are filled with light, but certain memories and life events can bring someone back to times of darkness, making you feel broken.

But if it weren't for this brokenness, if it weren't for these experiences, we wouldn't be who we are today. And it is important that we learn to love our whole selves, brokenness included...and learn to accept that God does, as well.

Because it is through these

broken places that light shines through, that beauty can be seen. A quote from St. Catherine of Siena hangs above my bed as a daily reminder—"Out of darkness is born the light."

I am learning that wholeness might be the acceptance of brokenness. Maybe instead of trying to mask the places that are broken so that others can't see them, we can simply let them be broken...to show the imperfections for what they are, letting the light shine through.

Can we learn to live with these imperfections, to acknowledge that this story we have to tell, this journey we are on, is what makes us whole? Can we learn that the path to wholeness comes with acknowledging that there are days when darkness might threaten to overtake us, but that we face it head-on, knowing that the light will always shine through again.

God doesn't expect our perfection. He doesn't expect us to come

to him in our wholeness, but rather welcomes us in our brokenness. He says, "come to me all who are weary and heavy burdened" (Matthew 11:28). "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their

And then we can begin to see the places where the healing has taken place and taken root, though they may go unnoticed by others. Little things seem like significant victories—like buying

groceries and doing laundry and getting out of bed because maybe there was a time when those simple actions seemed insurmountable.

I am realizing that the path to wholeness is a

lifelong process for everyone. Because we all have broken pieces and we are all longing to be made whole.

But the people who matter most don't need to see a polished and perfect person, they can just see who we are, people who are even more beautiful for having been broken. ■

"I am realizing that the path to wholeness is a lifelong process for everyone. Because we all have broken pieces and we are all longing to be made whole."

wounds" (Psalm 147).

We can try to rush healing, not wanting to show our broken parts to the world. But it is only when we give ourselves the proper space and time that the real healing can begin—like the art of kintsugi, which takes time, effort and care to craft something beautiful out of something broken.



Whoever is tapping could you please stop?

A DAD'S VIEW

BY MATTHEW HENNESSEY

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

There's nothing like a good family car ride. A 10-minute church run on Sunday qualifies.

So does an epic over-the-river, through-the-woods journey to grandmother's house.

You can always count on a road trip to make memories that last a lifetime—presuming you survive the bickering and pouting, the radio-station wars, the fights over temperature, and the never-ending wrangling about who gets to sit where.

When I was a kid my family ruled the road in a Chevrolet Caprice Classic station wagon. It was an early-80s All Star, with fake wood on the side and a rear-facing bench seat in the

back. There was nothing in the universe more fun than sitting in that seat and making faces at the driver in the car behind us. It was weird, and probably dangerous, but it was fun.

My brother and I played epic tournaments of Coleco head-to-head football on a little handheld device that kids today would recognize as a bleep-bloop-berp relic of digital prehistory. Sometimes we "collected" license plates from different states or played word association games.

"Road warrior." "Road kill." "Rhododendron." "Roto-rooter."

The longest rides we took together were to drop off my older sisters at Notre Dame

in South Bend, Ind. That was an 11-hour drive from our New Jersey home. You could do it in a day so long as you only stopped for gas. It bothered me that the road sign on Route 80 at the Delaware Water Gap read, "Welcome to Pennsylvania—America starts here."

When we visited family in Westchester or drove to the Jersey Shore, the mood was festive. Everyone was excited about the promise of great fun at the end of the ride. Coming home was a different story. Beloved siblings could get testy.

"His Walkman is too loud and he won't turn it down!"

My mother smoked in the car. She was adept at blowing rings out the passenger-side window, but plenty of the secondhand stuff fumed into the back seats. Me and my siblings inhaled plenty. Sometimes we complained, but doing so risked provoking our father's ire.

"Ire" is too strong a word. My dad has never been an ireful fellow. But he was always our mother's ardent defender, even when it came to cigarettes. He

wouldn't hesitate to throw on his shoes and drive to the store in the middle of the night if she ran low. Nowadays people might call that enabling. It looked like love to us.

On any road trip of any length, the soundtrack must be controlled by adults. Teenage passengers should neither be seen nor heard. They definitely shouldn't have access to the radio or the climate controls. Adults must fearlessly enforce these rules or suffer terrible consequences. Take it from someone who has failed miserably.

It's been a decade since I've gotten to listen to "my music" in the car. Magdalena, 13, has Down syndrome, but she's no angel when it comes to music. She has pop tastes and authoritarian impulses. When she doesn't like or recognize a song on the radio, she gives it three notes, max, before issuing her veto: "Skip!"

Mags is allowed three "skips" before the radio gets turned off entirely. Then we drive in frosty silence, until the inevitable complaining begins.

"Please can you crack the win-

dows because we're dying with sweat back here."

"No! The wind is too much. Turn up the heat. We're freezing back here."

"No, not the heat. The heat is what's killing us. We're dying back here!"

"Dad, he's touching me with his leg and I asked him to quit it but he just keeps doing it and if he does it again, just, uggghhh." "I'm soooooo thirsty. Is there any water back here?"

"Whoever is making that tapping noise could you please stop?"

"I think I need to go to the bathroom."

Of course, old faithful: "How much longer?"

In the new millennium, station wagon has given way to minivan. It's a roomier environment, a definite design improvement, though there are no ashtrays. Our family has seven rear-ends, so when we alight together every seat is taken. Add in car seats and teenage froglegs and legroom is hard to come by. We may soon need to upgrade to a minibus.

Welcome to the family road trip—memories start here. ■

All Souls Day

Cemetery Masses set for November 2

By **BRIAN D. WALLACE**

BRIDGEPORT—All Souls Day Mass will be celebrated in six cemeteries throughout the diocese on Saturday, November 2, 11am, rain or shine. The Masses, which will be offered for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, are open to the public.

More than 1,000 people throughout the diocese attended the outdoor All Souls Day Masses held in six cemeteries last year.

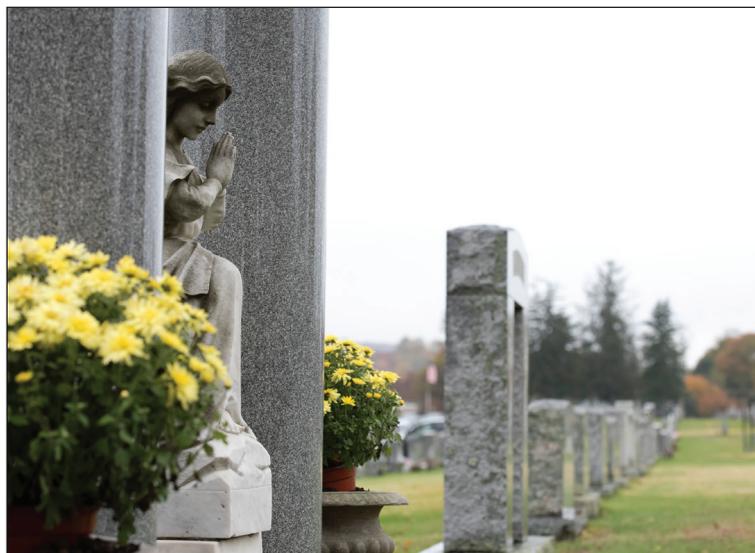
Bishop Frank J. Caggiano will be the main celebrant at the All Souls Day Mass held at St. Mary Cemetery in Greenwich. It will be streamed live on the diocesan Facebook page: [Facebook.com/bridgeportdiocese](https://www.facebook.com/bridgeportdiocese).

November is the month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory and

All Souls Day is a special day in particular during which we pray for those who have died. "When we lose someone, there is a hole we are not totally able to fill. Yet despite the loss, we believe that those who die in Christ are destined for an empty tomb. They will rise from the grave and receive what Christ has promised in His Resurrection," said Bishop Caggiano at last year's Mass.

The bishop thanked the pastors and priests who will be celebrating this year's Mass and encouraged Catholics throughout the diocese to pray that all those who have died may rest in the peace of Christ.

Bishop Caggiano announced the first outdoor All Souls Mass two years ago in the hope that it would become an annual tradition across the diocese.



Thousands throughout the diocese have found the Mass a moving and memorable way to pray for the faithful departed.

Traditionally, Catholics visit cemeteries on All Souls Day to

remember the dead and pray for their souls. During the Mass, the celebrants will remember in a special way all deceased bishops, priests, deacons, consecrated men and women and lay

faithful.

The diocese has announced the following locations and celebrants: St. Peter Cemetery, Danbury: Fr. Peter Towsley; St. Mary Cemetery, Greenwich: Bishop Frank J. Caggiano; St. John-St. Mary Cemetery, Norwalk: Msgr. Walter C. Orłowski; Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Trumbull: Fr. Brian Gannon; St. Michael Cemetery, Stratford: Fr. Alexis Moronta; St. John Cemetery, Darien: Fr. Paul Murphy

The Masses will be celebrated rain or shine under large outdoor tents. Arrangements and logistics for the day are supported by Catholic Cemeteries and the Diocesan Real Estate Office.

The diocese sponsors nine cemeteries in Fairfield County. For information on Catholic Cemeteries, call 203.416.1494. ■

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ST. THOMAS MORE FROM PAGE 14

surprises," he said, recalling how an underground watercourse was discovered beneath the structure, which stopped all the work and required rerouting.

Roxe said, "I had a chance to observe Father Paul up close when we went through all this. He stood tall and when things got really bad, he didn't explode, he dealt with it and he maintained a vision of what needed to be done. He compromised when compromise was necessary and he was transparent through the whole process, and I am very proud of him." The parish erupted in a sustained round of applause for their pastor.

Robert Gartelman, chairman of the buildings and grounds committee, which oversaw the project, said, "Father Murphy had a vision for what the church should be. We decided we had to build something that was going to last, and it had to be something that looked better than the old church liturgically. Our main focus was to create a Catholic church that looks Catholic."

For Gartelman, who was involved in the project since its inception, it was a labor of love for a parish he has belonged to almost 45 years, since he moved to Connecticut.

It holds a profound spiritual meaning for him. His parents were buried from the church and major events in his family's life were centered there.

"I have always believed it is a great place to worship," he said. "And the community of people who attend this church is what has kept me here all this time."

Addressing the packed church, in his final comments, Bishop Caggiano said, "My prayer for you, my friends, is that this place will resound to the glory of God, that this place will be the place where you will welcome all your sisters and brothers who are seeking more in life, who are seeking a higher purpose, a life that has a true intention that cannot be held by this world. May this place be a beacon of hope and joy and peace to those whose hearts are broken and troubled. It is a beautiful place, and it will be made ever more beautiful as our numbers continue to grow at St. Thomas More...one person at a time." ■

Diocesan News

Pilgrims Walk the Path of Jesus through Holy Land

By EMILY CLARK

To celebrate Mass at Jesus' tomb, visit the stone cave in Nazareth where Mary lived and swim in the Dead Sea may be experiences that many Catholics dream of but rarely see fulfilled. For 14 people from the Diocese of Bridgeport, however, that dream became a reality in July when they traveled to the Holy Land on a pilgrimage sponsored by The Leadership Institute and witnessed firsthand the path that Jesus walked.

For some of these pilgrims, this journey was the ideal means to renew their faith life; for others, it was a way to explore their religion outside Sunday Mass and see the Gospels come alive and for still others, it was a return to a place that held spiritual significance for them in the past.

After Bishop Frank J. Caggiano led a similar pilgrimage to the Holy Land in January 2018, he was inspired to plan another one specifically geared toward young adults ages 19-35 with a focus on studying scripture.

"Young adults by and large are at greater risk of disassociating from the Church than older adults are," said Patrick Donovan of The Leadership Institute who coordinated the trip. "The bishop is committed to helping the youth stay active with their faith in the future."

Following a traditional route from Tel Aviv to Nazareth and Galilee to Jerusalem, Donovan said the pilgrims began their journey at Haifa and Caesarea, allowing them a look at the early Apostles with an initial view of the Holy Land from a post resurrection experience. From there on, they gained a greater awareness of their faith and saw the Bible stories of their childhood come to life in different ways.

Marina Renzi, a student at Stonehill College who grew up going to Catholic schools, was in awe of the small details that clarified the narratives from her early religion classes, such as that of Jesus' 40 days and 40 nights in the Judean Desert.

"Being out there with the vast nothingness that the desert offers

really put into perspective how much Jesus would have suffered out there on his own," said Renzi, remembering the unbearable heat and treacherous cliffs of the wilderness. "It was difficult to imagine how Jesus would have done this without his Father's help, [but] we were out there, experiencing it, just as He did."

The visit to the desert was profound for the other pilgrims too. Keara Stewart, a nurse practitioner in New York, sensing Jesus' suffering as well as His promise of new life, Stewart said, "The desert signifies such a barren existence, but it contrasts so powerfully with the growth that thrives there."

Feeling the presence of Jesus throughout the journey deeply affected Grace Shay, who accompanied Bishop Caggiano on the first pilgrimage and chose to return in July. She never imagined she would have the chance to visit the Holy Land twice in her lifetime.

"It was a blessing to revisit and rediscover the source of our faith by walking in Jesus' footsteps," said Shay, a parishioner at St. Luke's Church in Westport. "Some of my favorite memories include celebrating an intimate Mass in the tomb within the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, singing the Magnificat as a group in the echoing upper chapel of the Church of the Visitation, and wading in the warm waters of the Sea of Galilee."

Not only did the pilgrims find the sites of the Holy Land inspiring and transformative, but so too were conversations and revelations as they bonded over shared experiences. Each evening, Donovan led the group in reflective discussions beginning with the prompts of "What challenged you today?" and "Where did God surprise you today?" While some started off with mundane comments about the heat and the excessive walking, talk gradually moved toward contemplative responses such as how little they understood about the stories they learned as children and how they could live out Jesus' message in the moment.

"As young adults, they won-

der, how do I live this at home, with my students, on Wall Street?" said Donovan, adding that the small group of 14 was the ideal size for such intimate dialogue, though at times, the quiet moments of reflection signified even more.

Recalling "deafening silence" after a visit to the Holy Sepulcher where Jesus was crucified and buried, Donovan said, "Everyone was so quiet. We were all moved in such a powerful way."

Each pilgrim had their own individual reasons for making this journey, and so the same encounter was experienced in a variety of ways.

"I came away with more awareness," said Theresa Readey, an accountant with the Diocese



WALKING IN HIS FOOTSTEPS—Fourteen people from the diocese, including Catholic Center employees, recently made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land sponsored by the diocesan Leadership Institute.

of Bridgeport who accompanied the young adults. "I found myself wanting to talk to God with no distractions. The experience of being where Jesus was conceived, born, lived, died and rose has given new life to my prayers, especially when I pray the Mysteries of the Rosary."

Due to the success of the two recent pilgrimages, Donovan is hoping to plan future trips to the Holy Land, Greece, Turkey and Rome with a spiritual and catechetical focus for young adults.

"We want [them] to feel connected to the Church and we invite them to tell their story of how they came to know Jesus," said Donovan. "We want to accompany them on their journey."

Such a journey is ongoing in both spiritual and personal ways for those who traveled to this sacred place back in July. As they reaffirmed a commitment to their faith individually, they continue to deepen it together. According

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Night Vigil

Catholic evangelists 'hit Stamford streets'

By JOE PISANI

STAMFORD — On a cool September evening when crowds filled the streets of downtown Stamford, strolling from restaurants to theaters and through the park, more than 30 faithful from the Basilica of St. John the Evangelist went out to share a message, a message that many people had never heard and many more had forgotten—that God loved them.

They went out into the night, just like the early disciples, who were directed by Christ. These street evangelists gave out holy candles and rosaries. They asked people if they wanted prayers, they listened to their stories about hardship and pain and they pointed them to where they could get all the answers to their problems—Jesus, who was a few blocks away, exposed in the Blessed Sacrament at St. John's.

"It really was a powerful night," said Father Joseph Gill, parochial vicar at the Basilica. "We are just taking Jesus at his word when he said to go out and preach the Gospel to all nations. It starts in your hometown. There are thousands of people in Stamford who may have never encountered Christ, and all we are trying to do is give them an

opportunity."

They were participating in a program called Night Vigil, when the faithful "hit the streets" and invite people to the church on Atlantic Street for an encounter with the Lord in adoration. They conducted a similar outreach last June.

The group included all ages, from 5 into their 60s, who were motivated by a deep desire to spread the Good News. Among them were teachers, homemakers, accountants, students, retirees, a nurse and a mother with her four young daughters.

During the course of the evening, they approached a few hundred strangers, some of whom turned them away or ignored them, but many others who were receptive. The evangelists offered them prayers, rosaries and candles, encouraging them to return to St. John's to light them and pray in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

"In hearing their stories, it amazes me how nothing is by accident. There are no accidents with God because everything is part of his beautiful plan," Father Gill said. "Two young Hispanic brothers said it was the anniversary of their mother's death so they were mourning her loss and planning to go home to light a candle

for her...and then they saw us giving away candles, so they took one and came to the church and stayed for a half hour.

Afterwards, they said they were so grateful to have that opportunity to pray in such a beautiful church on the anniversary of their mother's death."

One woman far from home on a business trip wept as members of the group prayed with her, another man said he was tormented by the memory of arguing with his mother as she lay dying, and yet another was tormented by substance abuse. They reached out to everyone and anyone; some passed by, others said no thank you.

Kate Skidd of Norwalk, joined by her daughters Evangeline, 5, Amelia, 8, Lilly, 11 and Mercedes, 14, stood on the sidewalk in front of St. John's, handing out candles and rosaries. The girls held signs that said, "Come inside, light a candle and adore the Lord!" And "How can we pray for you?" Later in the evening, the family went into the church to pray for the conversion of souls, Kate said. Her daughters had asked to take part in the Night Vigil, particularly Mercedes, who attended a Catholic summer camp and "came away with a real fire for evangelization," her mother said.

"If you have a gift—and what better gift is there than Christianity—why shouldn't you share it?" Mercedes said.

Diane Kremheller, an audit manager with PricewaterhouseCoopers, organized the street evangelization with Father Gill, which was inspired by a similar program called Night Fever that began in 2005 after World Youth Day in Germany.

"Throughout my life, I've encountered the Lord and his mercy, and the more time you spend with him in prayer and realize we don't deserve any-



WE BRING THEM TO JESUS AND LET JESUS DO THE WORK ON THEIR HEARTS—Thirty faithful from the Basilica of St. John the Evangelist parish in Stamford recently participated in a night vigil to bring the good news of the Gospel to people in downtown Stamford.

thing—that everything is a gift—the more you really want to share that with other people," she said. "Like St. Augustine, our hearts are restless until they rest in him. Nothing fills you except for Jesus, and you feel sadness for other people who are not experiencing that, so you want to share it with them."

And so she did. During the evening, she approached several dozen people and spent time telling them about Christ and listening as they shared their life stories and problems. Among them were a lonely high school student at the bus stop, several workers on their way home, a young man riding his bicycle through the park, a man suffering from substance abuse, and a mother and daughter who wanted to pray for another daughter battling mental illness and depression.

Diane, who is shy by nature, said, "You have to be bold for Christ. I'm shy, but when God is calling you to do something, he gives you guidance and the Holy Spirit is with you. So many people just need an invitation to encounter Christ. They need to know they're loved and what you say could end up having a major impact on their lives. It is ultimately up to God."

During his instructions to the group at the beginning of the evening, Father Gill told them to follow the example of Jesus, who never started off with a debate or argument, but simply said, "Come and see."

"And that's our goal—to get them to come and see," he said. "We bring them to Jesus, and let Jesus do the work on their hearts."

He was gratified to see so many parishioners living out their

baptismal call by evangelizing.

"It helps them develop into disciples and gain the confidence to speak about their faith in public," he said. "God uses all of us. Sometimes we think there's nothing we can do to bring the world to Christ...but there is so much we can do."

The parishioners who had gathered to go into the streets were firm in their faith. Joseph and Justina Okogun, who are from Nigeria, wanted to share the beauty of Catholicism and the truth of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist with others.

"It is a great joy for me to do this, because it is something I have always longed to do," Justina said. "We are fortunate to be Catholics. Look at the world. Our only hope is Jesus Christ. There is more to life than science and technology and social media. They don't have the solutions to the problems of life. We can only get the true answers from Jesus, and he has called us to get the message out."

Joseph said that he didn't want to be counted among those who, described in Chapter 6 of John's Gospel, walked away from Jesus because his teaching about the Eucharist was too hard. "This is the Church where you actually receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ."

Alva Giralvo, who attends 7:30 Mass at the church, said, "I receive so I give. I want to share my love of God with others. If you follow Jesus, you should share his message. I want everybody to follow Jesus." Dominic Vartuli said even though it is not his nature to evangelize strangers sometimes it's necessary to be

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Redemptoris Mater Seminary

Gala to honor president of Catholic University

STAMFORD—Redemptoris Mater, the missionary seminary of the Diocese of Bridgeport, will honor the president of The Catholic University of America and the permanent observer of the Holy See to the United Nations at its third annual gala on October 25.

Father Marco Pacciana, the rector of the seminary in Stamford, said that Archbishop Bernardito Auza, the permanent observer to the U.N. in New York and President John H. Garvey of Catholic University are men of strong faith known for upholding Catholic values in a secular world. The honorees will be introduced by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano.

“Archbishop Auza upholds the values of the Catholic faith and his work at the United Nations is very important when you consider everything that is going on in the world,” Father Pacciana said. “And President Garvey is a man who gives witness to the Catholic truth in the world of higher education.”

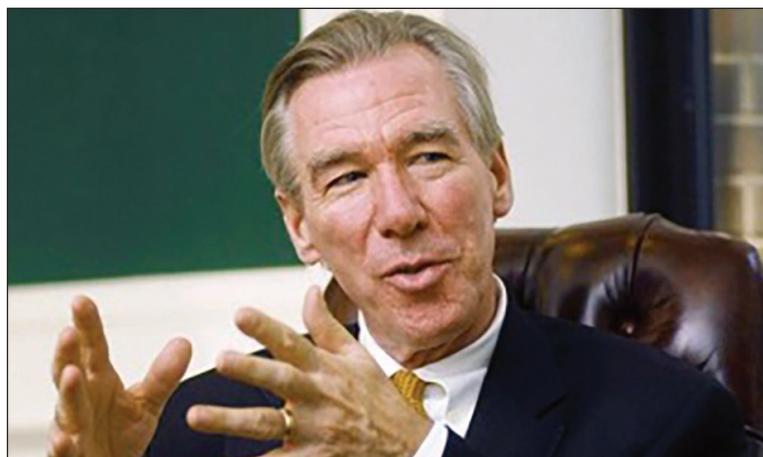
The dinner gala with music will be held at Vazzano’s Four Season Banquets at 337 Kenyon Street in Stratford on October 25 at 6 pm. For more information about the event, visit www.rmbridgeport.org or call 203.588.1785.

Father Pacciana said the gala is the largest fundraiser the seminary has each year.

“It is an evening to be together and show support for vocations and the work of the seminary,” he said. “It is an occasion for us to spread the word about who we are and what we do.”

Archbishop Auza, permanent observer to the United Nations in New York, is a native of the Philippines. He was ordained a priest in 1985 and has been a member of the Holy See’s diplomatic corps since 1990, serving as nuncio to Haiti, in the nunciatures in Madagascar, Bulgaria and Albania, and in the diplomatic section of the Secretariat of State in the Vatican.

President Garvey became the 15th president of The Catholic University of America on July 1, 2010. He is a nationally acclaimed expert in constitutional law, religious liberty and the First Amendment. He has



CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA PRESIDENT—John H. Garvey (above) and Archbishop Bernardito Auza, the permanent observer to the U. N. in New York, will be honored at the upcoming Redemptoris Mater Seminary Gala set for October 25 in Stratford.

authored and co-authored numerous books, including *What Are Freedoms For?*; *Religion and the Constitution* and *Sexuality and the U.S. Catholic Church*.

He received his A.B. *summa cum laude* from Notre Dame in 1970. After graduating from Harvard Law School, he clerked for Irving R. Kaufman, the Chief Judge of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals and later joined the law firm of Morrison & Foerster in San Francisco.

He has taught law at the University of Kentucky and the University of Michigan. From 1981 to 1984, he served as assistant to the Solicitor of the United States. He later taught at the University of Notre Dame from 1994 until 1999, when he was appointed dean of Boston College Law School.

As president of Catholic University, he has emphasized that a Catholic approach to scholarship enriches every school and discipline. During his tenure, the university launched the School of Business to integrate rigorous business education with Catholic Social Teaching. He is a prominent voice in the media on issues such as higher education, culture, law, Catholicism and religious liberty.

Four years ago, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano decided to open a Redemptoris Mater Seminary in Stamford with the purpose of preparing priests for missionary work anywhere in the world—from China to Europe and the Philippines and even the streets of Bridgeport.

Redemptoris Mater (Mother

Christian formation and the New Evangelization. They were inspired by St. Pope John Paul II and his call for a “New Evangelization.” The first seminary opened in 1987 in the Diocese of Rome, and today there are 123 on five continents. Since their inception, more than 2,000 men have been ordained to the priesthood and some 1,500 seminarians are in formation worldwide.

About the Redemptoris Mater Seminary of Bridgeport

The Redemptoris Mater Seminary in Stamford opened in December 2015 under the direction of Father Alfonso Picone, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish. It was the ninth in the United States. Today there are ten young men there from five different nations (USA, Brazil, Colombia, Kiribati, and Honduras). They



ARCHBISHOP BERNARDITO AUZA

are under the direction of Father Marco Pacciana, the rector, and Father Giandomenico Flora, the spiritual director and also rector of St. Margaret Shrine in Bridgeport. ■

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St. Peter Parish, Bridgeport

Mother Teresa offers key to renewal of Church

By **JOE PISANI**

BRIDGEPORT—On the 22nd anniversary of the death of St. Teresa of Calcutta, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano said that at a time when the world and Church face grave challenges, the saint of Calcutta's "radical intimacy with Christ and radical intimacy with the poorest of the poor show us the way to new life."

Celebrating the Mass of her solemnity at St. Peter Church, where there is a convent for the Missionaries of Charity, he described her as "perhaps the greatest of modern saints."

"She was a very simple woman whose holiness and power of witness tower above all others and who has given us the recipe for the renewal of the entire Church," Bishop Caggiano said.

Throughout history, when the Church has been faced with great challenges, division and crisis, he said that "God in his great love has sent us those who are saints, who by their holiness and witness and mission showed the world and the Church a way to renewal and new life."

"In our own age, we are facing many challenges and deep divisions in a world that refuses to recognize the face of God and refuses to acknowledge the power of his life, which is love in our midst," he said. "It is a world that is growing colder and darker and a Church that has seen betrayal and much sin. And so once again, our gracious and merciful Father has sent us new saints to lead us to renewal and new life."

He said that on the anniversary of Mother Teresa's death,



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MOTHER TERESA—Bishop Caggiano visited St. Peter Parish in Bridgeport recently to celebrate Mass in honor of the 22nd anniversary of the death of St. Theresa of Calcutta. The order she founded, the Missionaries of Charity, have a convent at the parish and minister to the poor of Bridgeport.

"we come to honor her and ask for her prayers, intercession and protection." He described her "odyssey of faith" from the time she entered a religious order and

later founded the Missionaries of Charity in 1950 and was given a mystical moment when she "understood the heart and spirit and thirst of Christ on the cross, the thirst for him to love the world and have that love returned."

Her life was defined by deep prayer and Eucharistic adoration, which prepared her to go out into the world each day, embracing and serving Christians and non-Christians in the gutters of Calcutta in search of the poor, the suffering and the dying, "never mindful of the cost, of the sacrifice or of the danger she would be putting herself in." Her work spread worldwide and she was honored with the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. Today, there are more than 5,000 sisters in some 135 countries, running homes for the sick and dying, soup kitchens and orphanages.

The bishop praised the sisters for carrying on the work of their founder and said, "She would go where no one else would dare to go because she knew that the love of Christ impelled her to find that love in every human heart...and to this day, you dear sisters, continue her charism and continue to go to places where no one else dares to go."

Bishop Caggiano said Mother Teresa's intercession and protection is needed now more than ever.

"Let us pray through the intercession of St. Teresa of Calcutta that we may have an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in your life and mine so that we can grow ever more deeply in love

with the Lord and that we will have the courage to go one more step into the shadows, that we will have the courage to love one more person we have not loved up to this point, and that we will go among the poor at least one more step," Bishop Caggiano said.

"Let us ask for that courage and grace that with her prayers and intercession, we will see with our own eyes the flowering of Christian life, the renewal of our beloved Church," he said. "And we will see the world do what it did once 22 years ago when millions of people gathered to honor Teresa, who was called the 'Mother of all India'—the vast majority of whom were not even Christian—because they saw in her a glimpse of God. And let us pray that others may say the same thing about you and me."

The Missionaries of Charity first opened their mission in Bridgeport in 2001, when four sisters moved into a home across from St. Peter Church on Colorado Avenue. Today they have two homes, one of which is a house of prayer for the sisters.

As part of their ministry in Bridgeport, they visit the elderly, nursing homes, hospitals, and families in the neighborhood to see what their spiritual and material needs are. They have an after-school tutorial program to help children with homework, and they also teach CCD in the parish and offer a catechetical program for children 3 to 5 years old, along with a youth group during the school year and a four-week summer day camp.

Sister Anawim, whose name is Hebrew for "the poorest of the poor of God," previously served in Harlem and has been in Bridgeport since 2011. A native of Pittsburgh, she has been a Missionary of Charity for 43 years and knew Mother Teresa personally.

"Mother would often start her talks with the scripture passage, 'God is love.' She would say God loves you and me just as we are. God longs and thirsts to love us and to be loved in return. Her message was always a message of love," Sister said. "It was love for God, love for Jesus, love for each other, love for family, love

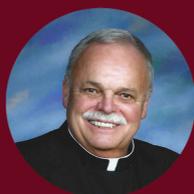
▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

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For Family

Mary Ellen '83 & Matthew Adzima P '11, '14, '16 are extraordinary supporters of St Joseph High School. They have been involved in just about every committee and volunteer activity throughout the last 20 years. As one of nine siblings to attend St Joes, Mary Ellen knew firsthand the strong family and community values that St Joes fosters for our students and families. We are blessed to have them.

The St Joseph High School Gala is a scholarship event that casts a spotlight on the school's strong commitment to community service and leadership. It is a fabulous evening of cocktails, dinner, and live music, along with live & silent auctions.

The event is open to public and all proceeds benefit St Joseph High School's Scholarship Fund.

For Tickets, Sponsorships, Donations, and Additional Information,
visit sjcadets.org/gala

Parish News

1,000 turn out for Lourdes experience at St. Mary's

STAMFORD — They came in humility to pray to Our Lady. They came in hope, looking for a healing for themselves, a family member or friend. They came because of a lifelong dream to make a pilgrimage to Lourdes, one of the most revered Marian shrines in the world.

More than 1,000 faithful filled St. Mary Church to take part in the Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage, which brought the experience of Lourdes to the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, who led the Rosary and offered a Eucharistic blessing said, "This was an absolutely extraordinary spiritual experience for me and helped me come to a greater love of Our Lady."

Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers coordinated the program, which featured a slide show and narration about the shrine, a candlelight Rosary, holy water from Lourdes and rocks from the grotto at Massabielle, where the Blessed Virgin appeared to Bernadette Soubirous, a 14-year-old peasant girl, in 1858.

The event recreated a pilgrimage to Lourdes. "This experience draws pilgrims nearer to God in the company of Our Lady as they are guided through a prayerful visit to the grotto, the experience of water, prayer in a rosary procession and a Eucharistic blessing," organizers said.

Every year, 6 million pilgrims travel to Lourdes 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 event was organized by David D'Andrea of St. Roch Church in Byram, who attributes several miracles in his life to Lourdes. "I wanted to give everyone a chance to experience Lourdes who may never get to go there," he said.

"This is truly a tribute to Our Blessed Mother that so many



of you have come out this afternoon to honor her," said Fran Salaun, the director of Lourdes volunteers, North America, who narrated the slide presentation. "We are here this afternoon to share the pilgrimage together to a very holy place called Lourdes, France. All you need is an open mind and open heart to listen to the message Our Lady gave to St. Bernadette."

The Blessed Virgin appeared 18 times to Bernadette, "who by all measures was an unlikely saint," Salaun said. She was a sickly child who did poorly in her studies and still had not made her First Communion as she approached 14 because she had trouble with her catechism. She was told that she was "too stupid" to learn.

And yet on that chilly, damp afternoon on February 11, 1858, the Mother of God chose to appear to her with a message of penance and prayer for the entire world. The grotto where the 18 apparitions occurred was like the village dump, a place where stolen goods were exchanged and the pigs ate.

"How could such a terrible place become such a holy place today?" Salaun asked. "Because the Mother of God came there."

During the presentation, the faithful came forward to touch rocks from the grotto and Bishop Caggiano blessed the assembly with holy water from Lourdes, followed by a candlelight Rosary before the Blessed Sacrament, with each decade said in a different language—Spanish, English, Filipino, French and Italian,

which was led by the bishop.

In his closing remarks, D'Andrea, who encouraged everyone to embrace the message of Lourdes and "open your arms and open your hearts and open



the doors to the churches and walk through and follow our leader, Bishop Caggiano," whom he described as the "best bishop in America."

"I was awestruck by the number of people who were moved by the event," he said later. Many of the responses he received by email and phone, one after the other, told him about their suffering and pain and faith in Our Lady.

A lifelong Greenwich resident, D'Andrea approached Bishop Caggiano with the idea of bringing the Virtual Pilgrimage to Stamford and received his support. Father Gustavo Falla, pas-

tor of St. Mary's, agreed to host the event at his church.

The bishop thanked D'Andrea for his "hard work, persevering, and your love for Our Lady and Our Lord and for sharing with everyone you meet."

D'Andrea said he was cured of polio as a child and overcame the trauma of clerical sex abuse. He also 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,

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

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Catholic Charities

26th annual Norwalk Breakfast set

By AMY ZAJAC

NORWALK— On Friday, December 6, Catholic Charities will hold its 26th Annual Norwalk Breakfast at Shorehaven Golf Club from 7:30-9:30 am. The Norwalk Breakfast is a Christmas event that is held each year to raise the critical funds to support the programs provided in Norwalk—Room to Grow Preschool and Behavioral Health Services. This holiday fundraiser features a spectacular buffet and a raffle. But the highlight of this year's event is celebrity guest speaker The Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano, bishop of the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Full details on the event, as well as registration for tickets and tables can be found at www.ccfairfield.org/event/2019-norwalk-celebrity-breakfast. Those interested in attending the event are encouraged to register early. Seating is limited and it is anticipated that the event, which usually hosts a sell-out crowd, will reach capacity even faster with

Bishop Caggiano as the guest speaker.

Catholic Charities of Fairfield County, Inc. is one of the largest private social service providers in Connecticut. The agency puts faith into action by providing a wide variety of services to over 10,000 individuals in Fairfield County, Connecticut annually. In Norwalk, services are provided through Room to Grow Preschool and Behavioral Health Services. RTG, a state licensed and nationally accredited preschool program, provides high quality care and education for children ages 3 to 5 years old and recently graduated its largest class to date—58 students in total. Students attending the program come from low-income families residing in the City of Norwalk. The program capacity is 132 children and is funded through a school readiness grant. However, additional funding is still needed and the Norwalk Breakfast helps support the services the program provides.

Catholic Charities also offers Behavioral Health Services in Norwalk. While the program does take insurance, the agency has been a leader in providing affordable and accessible mental health services to economically disadvantaged individuals and families for over fifty years and is one of the only providers of subsidized mental health services in the region. Clinic staff consists of skilled master level and licensed clinicians with training in various mental health disciplines, including counseling, clinical social work, medication management and marriage and family therapy. Now more than ever, affordable mental health services are vital for the community of Norwalk.

(For more information on the Norwalk Breakfast, please go to www.ccfairfield.org/event/2019-norwalk-celebrity-breakfast or contact Amy Zajac at azajac@ccfc-ct.org.)

(To learn more about the services provided by Catholic Charities, including Room to Grow Preschool and Behavioral Health Services, visit their webpage at www.ccfairfield.org.) ■



BISHOP FRANK J. CAGGIANO TO SPEAK—Bishop Caggiano will be the featured speaker at the 26th Annual Celebrity Breakfast for the Norwalk office of Catholic Charities.

MOTHER TERESA FROM PAGE 24

for our neighbors—whoever they may be wherever they may be, whoever they are, no matter what race, no matter what culture, no matter what nationality, no matter what religion, no matter whether they treat you nicely or they don't treat you nicely. Her message was love."

She added that when we do loving things for anyone, we live Jesus' words in St. Matthew's Gospel, "Whatever you do to the least of my brethren, you did it to me." St. Theresa of Calcutta spoke of these words on five fingers; she would show her hand and say, "You did it to me."

Clarissa Cincotta of Trumbull has volunteered with the missionaries since they arrived in 2001, driving them to their doctors' appointments and collecting food for them to distribute.

"They immediately captivated me by the way they lived...so humbly, so quietly and yet so intensely for Christ," she said. "They put a great deal of love into everything they do. They live for Jesus and through their every encounter, each one of them lifts you up with their intense love of the Lord. Their work with the poor is untiring, helping to feed those less fortunate and also checking to see what their other needs may be. They visit the sick, help children with religious studies, have several holy hours every day and always have laughter coming from their houses. They are filled with joy. The day I met them was a gift from God."

Father Lawrence Carew, who was among the priests at the Mass and is a spiritual adviser to the sisters at the house of prayer, said, "It is such a privilege to meet with the sisters regularly and pray with them when they need to be away from ministry for a while so they come into the healing that Christ has for them and be refreshed."

After the Mass, people gathered in two long lines in the church and came forward to venerate relics of St. Teresa of Calcutta.

Father Jhon Gomez, pastor of St. Peter Church, thanked the bishop, his fellow priests and the Missionaries of Charity for their great warmth and service to the poor. "Keep working and doing this great job, this great service that you do for the needy," he said.

Sister Seton, who is in charge of the house of prayer, thanked all those who helped make the Mass and reception possible and said, "Today we celebrate the love of God that our dearest mother, St. Teresa of Calcutta, received and shared so generously, especially with Jesus in the poorest of the poor." ■

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Refreshment to follow. All are welcome.



St. Vincent's Medical Center

A new era under Hartford HealthCare

By **JOE PISANI**

BRIDGEPORT — Bishop Frank J. Caggiano and the leadership of Hartford HealthCare signed an agreement Monday to ensure St. Vincent's Medical Center will continue to operate in compliance with Catholic healthcare doctrine following its acquisition.

Hartford HealthCare purchased St. Vincent's and its related operations from Ascension for \$244 million, making it the second largest hospital in the system after the 867-bed Hartford Hospital. It has committed \$135 million to capital improvements and represents the system's entry into Southwestern Connecticut.

In addition to the 473-bed, acute-care hospital, the acquisition includes St. Vincent's Multispecialty Group with 250 providers and a 76-bed inpatient psychiatric facility in Westport.

At the blessing ceremony and the signing of the Catholic Tradition Agreement, Bishop Caggiano said, "This is a sacred place of healing, whose mission is to care for the sick in a world in desperate need of compassion."

He expressed great confidence in the future of St. Vincent's on the occasion of "this historic transition after 115 years of healthcare and healing ministry." He also recalled that when he first came to Bridgeport, he required hospitalization for dehydration after a medical reaction and that even though the medical staff did not realize he was the bishop, "They treated me with great dignity and respect."

Jeffrey A. Flaks, president and CEO of Hartford HealthCare, said St. Vincent's is a pioneer in healthcare safety, recognized for its integrity and mission, which goes back to 1903 when the Daughters of Charity first came to Bridgeport to open a hospital that would care for Catholics and immigrants.

"We are passing along a great heritage," he said. "We have a shared vision and we are 100 percent committed to Connecticut" and will continue to serve the community, including the poorest members.

"Fairfield County needs a vibrant St. Vincent's Medical Center," Flaks has said. "As



CATHOLIC TRADITION SIGNING AGREEMENT—Bishop Caggiano joined Hartford Healthcare President and CEO Jeffrey A. Flaks and Sacred Heart University President John Petillo, who is also president of the board of St. Vincent's, at the recent signing ceremony in which more than 1,500 employees signed the leather bound pledge book in support of the mission of Catholic healthcare to provide "compassionate and reverent care for all we serve."

part of Hartford HealthCare, St. Vincent's patients will have access to more programs and services, excellent care coordination and a truly statewide focus on quality and safety—on and off the main hospital campus."

Hartford HealthCare is an integrated system with 24,000 employees and \$4.3 billion in operating revenue. It has seven acute-care hospitals, behavioral health and rehabilitation services, a large physician group, skilled-nursing and home-health services and senior-living facilities.

Vincent DiBattista, senior vice president for Hartford HealthCare and president of Hartford HealthCare's new Fairfield region, will be responsible for the operations of St. Vincent's and expansion of services in Fairfield County. He spent the day making "rounds" at the hospital and meeting its employees and medical staff.

DiBattista has been an executive with Hartford HealthCare since 2015 and previously spent 25 years working for a Catholic health system in the Detroit market. "The mission, vision and values I grew up with are pretty darn close to what Hartford HealthCare espouses," he said during an interview. "What is important to the patient and the individual is pretty consistent, so when St. V's first came up on the market, all of the components that are important to us were a complete match. Whether to bring the hospital into Hartford

was an easy question to answer. We have high expectations."

He said that adhering to Catholic healthcare doctrine

as outlined in the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services, established by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, "is not going to be a big issue" and that the cultural differences between the two systems are minimal.

"When you talk about culture differences, most meetings at St. V's start with a reflection, and at Hartford, we start our meetings with a recognition to praise the efforts of individuals in the organization, and both have the same value. One is praising performance and one is praising the spiritual needs of the organization, and it is important for the staff to have those."

The directives established by the bishops provide standards that Catholic hospitals must follow in providing care. Some, for example, prohibit the medical staff from performing certain

procedures, such as abortion and direct sterilization.

DiBattista, who has been involved in physician recruitment, said he is increasing the ranks of individual providers and recently signed Soundview physician practice in Norwalk and Darien with more than 40 doctors, along with developing a strategic alliance with Visiting Nurse Services of Connecticut in Bridgeport. He spent the first day of operations talking with the staff.

"We had a ceremony this morning to meet and greet the staff as they came in to work," he said. "Many Hartford HealthCare executives were present, and the look of elation on the face of the employees was tremendous. They are looking forward to finally being aligned with someone committed to this

▶ **CONTINUED ON PAGE 33**



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Author to discuss Mother Cabrini, immigration

When Paul Moses was a student at Mary Queen of Heaven School in Brooklyn during the 1960s, a classmate would occasionally yell, "Rumble!" as St. Patrick's Day approached in the hope of instigating a street fight between Irish and Italian kids. Moses says those youthful challenges recalled earlier times in the second half of the 19th century and later, when Irish and Italian immigrants fought on city streets as they competed for jobs and housing.

"My childhood was an echo of those past conflicts between the Irish and Italians," says Moses, whose mother's ancestry is Italian and whose wife's is Irish.

A key player during those years of unrest was St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, patron saint of immigrants, whose religious congregation, the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, provided support to Italians who



AUTHOR PAUL MOSES

came to this country and found themselves outcasts.

"I find Mother Cabrini to be an inspiring figure," Moses said. "She is very important right now and her life is worth exploring. She accomplished so much and was an amazing woman who had to deal with her own fears and overcome health problems to accomplish all she did."

"Mother Cabrini refused to return to Italy after the Irish-American archbishop of New York, Michael Corrigan, told her to do so the day after her landing," Moses said, although the two later worked together for the benefit of both their ethnic groups.

Moses is the author of a book about the Italian and Irish immigration experience titled, *An Unlikely Union: The Love-Hate Story of New York's Irish and Italians*. Former city editor of

Newsday and senior religion writer, he is a professor emeritus of journalism at Brooklyn College.

Intermarriage between the Irish and Italians and their growing association in churches and neighborhoods in the years following World War II played a role in ending the strife that existed for decades and provides a lesson for America and the Church today as we grapple with the issue of immigration, Moses said.

"This peace was achieved through love and intermarriage and because, in the fluid world of American democracy, the Irish and Italians were so often thrown together, whether or not they liked being near each other," Moses wrote. "They clashed in parishes, workplaces, neighborhoods, and politics. But over time, these same arenas came to unite them. The Italians had no choice but to deal with the Irish, who were their union leaders, foremen, schoolteachers, cops, and ward heelers. The Irish had to deal with the Italians if they were to raise the status of the Catholic faith in Protestant America."

Moses also said, "The Church, which was another arena for conflict between the Irish and the Italians, later becomes a place that drew them together." Italian immigrants from Southern Italy were often treated as second class and had to hold their services in church basements amid com-

plaints they did not contribute enough money.

He sees similarities between the treatment of Southern Italian immigrants and Mexican immigrants today. However, he is optimistic about the future and emphasizes the importance of the Catholic Church in the process of acceptance and assimilation.

"The Church still plays a very important role in bringing people together," he says. "Ultimately it does work out. And I am convinced that the current waves of immigrants will experience the same thing. I think the big meaning of the story is there are ways that seemingly entrenched differences can be overcome. Really, the key is for people to get to know each other as people. That is happening with immigrants' groups today."

Moses is also author of *The Saint and the Sultan: The Crusades, Islam and Francis of Assisi's Mission of Peace* (Doubleday 2009), which won the Catholic Press Association award for the year's best history book and became the basis for the Emmy-nominated PBS docudrama *The Sultan and the Saint*.

He worked for 23 years in daily journalism, mostly at Newsday's New York City edition. He served as the paper's City Hall bureau chief, Brooklyn editor, city editor and religion writer. As a rewrite man, he



ST. FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI

wrote the paper's lead stories on the World Trade Center attack and on a subway crash that killed five people, the latter winning the Pulitzer Prize for Spot News Reporting in 1992.

He was also a reporter for The Associated Press, and has written for other outlets, including The Daily Beast, The New York Daily News, The Wall Street Journal, the Village Voice, CNN.com, Time.com, America and Commonwealth magazine, where he is a contributing writer. He lives in Brooklyn with his wife, Maureen.

(A Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and author, Moses will deliver a talk on Mother Cabrini and her message on Sunday, November 17, following a Mass celebrated in Italian by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano at 10 am at Sacred Heart Church in Stamford.)

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NIGHT VIGIL FROM PAGE 22

pushed out of your comfort zone. This was the second time that Caitlin Stote participated in Night Vigil and she said, "A lot of people asked us to pray for their intentions. Many of them had family members who were sick, and they were touched when we offered to pray for them."

At the end of the evening, the evangelists returned to the church. The joy they felt was palatable, especially when they met the people who had accepted their invitation to go inside St. John's and pray. They were invigorated by the success of the evening...and confident Jesus would do the rest.

"At the end of the day, it's not about numbers," Diane said. You can touch one person and just show them. The best form of

evangelization is showing people that God infinitely loves them for who they are, not for what they do. The Holy Spirit and God do the work. As simple as that sounds, that is what converts hearts and minds."

Father Gill encourages other parishes, even those in non-urban areas, to adopt similar programs. He said they can do other projects, such as setting up a table at a food festival or having parishioners participate in a road race to demonstrate their faith and willingness to share their love of Christ.

"We have to start getting outside of the church building and bringing people to Jesus," he said, "because if we just stay in our church building, no one will come."

John Henry Newman

Heart Speaks to Heart: Newman Canonization

BY FATHER JOSEPH MARCELLO

When Pope Francis canonizes Blessed John Henry Newman (1801-1890) on Sunday, October 13, it will be a moment of singular importance for the whole Church.

Newman was one of the most powerful and luminous intellects in the history of the Church. A scholar, teacher and writer of the highest caliber, he was also very intentionally a pastor and father to countless souls. Newman's enduring insights into the irreplaceable contribution of revealed religion in civilized society, as well as the integral relationship between faith and reason continue to move minds and hearts today, all over the world.

Perhaps Newman's greatest legacy, though, is his unrelenting search for the truth and his utter willingness to follow the truth wherever it led him. This is why Newman's liturgical memorial is celebrated not on the day of his death (August 11) or of his birth (February 21) but on October 9: the day on which, in 1845, he was received into the Catholic Church.

His journey "across the Tiber" was rigorous and costly. Having been raised and ordained for ministry in the Anglican church, and having gained a wide reputation as a respected preacher and scholar, Newman sought to prove, through research in the writings of the Fathers of the Church,

that the Anglicanism which he practiced at the time was a "via media," an acceptable "middle way," between Protestantism and Catholicism. Gradually but definitively he came to see with clarity that the living, apostolic Faith of the ancient Church found its fullest expression, was found concretely, in the Church of Rome.

Through this intellectual and spiritual search, Newman came to the realization, as he strikingly wrote in his 1845 Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine, that "To be deep in history is to cease to be Protestant." And, in the same work: "In a higher world it is otherwise, but here below to live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often."

The suffering Newman endured at the time of his conversion cannot be underestimated, yet his trust in God's providence remained unshaken. It was this general period which occasioned some of his most famous works, such as the hymn *Lead, Kindly Light* and the following, from his *Meditations on Christian Doctrine*:

God has created me to do Him some definite service; He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission—I never may know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. Somehow I am necessary for His purposes, as necessary in my place as an Archangel in

his—if, indeed, I fail, He can raise another, as He could make the stones children of Abraham. Yet I have a part in this great work; I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good, I shall do His work; I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it, if I do but keep His commandments and serve Him in my calling. Therefore I will trust Him. Whatever, wherever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him; in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him; if I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. My sickness, or perplexity, or sorrow may be necessary causes of some great end, which is quite beyond us. He does nothing in vain; He may prolong my life, He may shorten it; He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends, He may throw me among strangers, He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide the future from me—still He knows what He is about.

When Newman was made a Cardinal by Pope Leo XIII in 1879, his life's work was recognized, endorsed and vindicated by the Successor of Peter. On that occasion he delivered what has come to be known as his *Biglietto Speech*, a brief retrospective on his own life. In it, he said: For thirty, forty, fifty years I



BLESSED JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

have resisted to the best of my powers...the doctrine that there is no positive truth in religion, but that one creed is as good as another, and this is the teaching which is gaining substance and force daily. It is inconsistent with any recognition of any religion, as true. It teaches that all are to be tolerated, for all are matters of opinion. Revealed religion is not a truth, but a sentiment and a taste; not an objective fact, not miraculous; and it is the right of each individual to make it say just what strikes his fancy.

In an age when those words ring true even more so than when he first uttered them, may Newman's canonization be an

occasion for a wide rediscovery of his life and thought, and may his writings, his example, and his prayers continue to lead new generations to Christ and to His Church. Giving thanks to God for the canonization of this seminal figure in the life of the Church, we pray in the words of the Church's Liturgy:

O God, who bestowed on the Priest Saint John Henry Newman the grace to follow your kindly light and find peace in your Church; graciously grant that, through his intercession and example, we may be led out of shadows and images into the fullness of your truth. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WE STAND WITH CHRIST FROM PAGE 4

ment 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 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 dio-

cese's mission to support its pastoral ministries and programs in religious education, evangelization, 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 take the fundraising pressure off of Catholic Charities and free up directors of the various programs to concentrate on providing services and administration. It will also 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.

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Learning Academy at All Saints School

Assisted learning for students with disabilities

By PAT HENNESSY

NORWALK—"Would you be interested in having a special education class at your school?" Superintendent of Schools Dr. Cheeseman asked Linda Dunn, principal of All Saints School in Norwalk. In response to parents' requests, he was looking for a place to start a pilot program for students with mild to moderate special education needs.

Dunn's response was immediate and enthusiastic. "This is a way for me to extend a Catholic education to those students who we haven't been able to serve until now."

Dr. Cheeseman's initiative, and Principal Dunn's quick reply, came as a response to requests

from parents.

"We have been hearing from families for a number of years that they want to enroll their child with special needs in a Catholic school," said Sister Marilyn Muldoon, associate superintendent for the diocesan Schools Office. "It has always been one of our goals to serve more of these children."

Sister Marilyn was principal of St. Catherine Academy for special needs children before assuming her current position in the Superintendent's Office and has a master's degree in Special Education.

The expansion of Catholic education to embrace children with disabilities has always been a desire of Bishop Frank J.



A PILOT PROGRAM IN SPECIAL EDUCATION—The new Learning Academy at All Saints School in Norwalk will provide a personalized learning experience in an academically rich and faith-filled environment, where students will be assisted according to their needs.

Caggiano and was included in the strategic plan for Catholic schools in the Fourth Diocesan Synod. Planning, though, took time. The idea was to start small, with one school centrally located in the diocese and a principal who was enthusiastically behind the project.

All Saints School and Principal Dunn fit the bill precisely. "The Learning Academy at All Saints will provide a personalized learning experience that addresses students' identified disabilities," said Dunn. "We provide target instruction in these areas in an academically rich and faith-filled environment, while encouraging opportunities for inclusion and social development. The program will help develop self-esteem, confidence and basic academic skills, with a goal of returning them to the mainstream classroom."

The program will start with a limited number of students in grades 3-6. Children accepted into the program will have had a diagnosed evaluation, including math disabilities and dyslexia, by their local school district, which will have formed a documented Instructional Educational Plan (IEP) from those tests.

"We will develop our own plan from that," explained Dunn. "At All Saints, the children will be engaged in an academically rich and faith-filled environment, where they will be assisted according to their needs."

An experienced teacher is the key to the success of the program. Dunn considers herself excep-

tionally fortunate in obtaining the services of Barbara Thompson of Wolcott, CT. Thompson has a master's degree in special education from St. Joseph College in West Hartford and post-graduate courses in educational administration from Teacher's College Columbia University. She has more than 40 years experience in all aspects of teaching special education students, including emotional, behavioral and physical issues. In the Wolcott Public Schools she has been a designer of early literacy programs for special education students; a supervisor of instructional assistants; and supervisor of a peer-helper program.

"When I heard about this opening, I was eager to do it," Thompson said. "I started the special education program at Wolcott, and now I am going to be able to start a program in

collaboration with regular classroom teachers. As we learn each student's potential, we may have the possibility of modifying the program to work with the kids in the classroom at certain times, rather than pull them out for separate sessions. The kids need to learn from their peers, and it's great because their classmates are learning, too. Inclusion has always been a big thing with me."

Thompson will have a full-time aide to assist her. In addition, All Saints has partnered with Rehabilitation Associates, Inc., for a licensed, speech-language pathologist who will create a customized treatment plan including evaluation, diagnosis and treatment. That teacher will come in a few hours a week to work one-on-one with students who have speech and language difficulties.

"The ultimate goal of the Learning Academy at All Saints School is to be a pilot program," said Superintendent Cheeseman. "Eventually we would like to have a school in every section of the diocese that could provide this program to students in their area."

"This is an evolving program," said Thompson, "Kids will have the support they need throughout the school day and be included in regular classroom when possible, with the goal of eventually being comfortably mainstreamed with their classmates."

(A few spaces in the class remain. For more information, contact Director of Admissions Denise Vuoso: 203.847.3381, ext.1.)



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Foundations in Faith

Grant Reception introduces new opportunities for youth

WESTON—Foundations in Faith hosted their annual Bishop's Reception on a warm September afternoon in Weston at St. Francis of Assisi Parish Hall. Over 120 people of all ages gathered to celebrate one another as fellow 2019 grant award recipients. Elements of the afternoon included Bishop Frank J. Caggiano acknowledging each of the grant recipients from four funds, followed by an announcement about a new grant opportunity for youth.

Bishop Caggiano is offering two \$5,000 grants—one to a Catholic High School and one to a Catholic Church high school aged youth group in the Diocese of Bridgeport. Known as the Youth in Action Grant it is "by youth—for youth." Bishop Caggiano expressed that he is eager to hear

young people's ideas on how best to re-energize the teen Catholic faith experience. According to the bishop, "We need to listen to their voices and give them the space and resources to design programs and projects that will resonate with them."

Bishop Caggiano challenged the teens to propose a project that includes elements of 1) collaboration 2) evangelization and 3) mission work. According to Kelly Weldon, director of Foundations in Faith, "Too often we have adults deciding what would be best for our youth. Times are calling for us to flip the script and let the youth innovate and show us adults a new way for youth to deepen and get excited about their faith journey. The Youth in Action Grant is intended to be youth led with support and guid-

ance from an adult mentor."

Youth in Action applications will be submitted electronically by November 22. The strongest high school project and youth group project will be announced in December. The funded projects will begin in January 2020 and continue through the calendar year.

The youth were energized by this announcement and eager to hear details that were shared on Foundations in Faith Instagram, Facebook and website. Following the bishop's announcement there were photos, fellowship and food—a popular "taco bar" was a hit.

Three groups known for their innovation were asked to present on their St. John Paul II funded projects. Caitlyn Stote, Amanda Stote and Staci Genovese co-founders along with Diane Kremheller of Catholic Adventures of Stamford told of the creation of a millennial Catholic group who engage in hiking, bowling, Theology on Tap, bible study and street evangelization activities. The combined approach of social and spiritual activities has resonated with a growing number of young professionals in the Stamford community and beyond. Nothing like Catholic Adventures existed, so, they created it and it certainly is resonating as evidenced by their growth and offerings, the women explained.

Karen Lannigan from St. Theresa Church spoke about the STAY youth group. Karen described teen service projects developing into a community of youth who wanted to deepen their relationship with God and their Church community. They became a youth apostolate—gatherings expanded to saying the Rosary and Adoration, their energy and devotion were evident.

Lannigan reinforced the importance of listening to youth and asking them what they needed and she gave them the opportunity to take on leadership roles and encouraged them to develop the program. Needless to say, the St. Theresa youth group is empowered by the approach and the Holy Spirit. Their goal is to expand to the middle school



FOUNDATIONS IN FAITH GRANTS—More than 120 Foundations in Faith grant recipients gathered recently to meet one another and discuss their projects. Bishop Caggiano also introduced the new Youth in Action Grants.

group and continue to grow the momentum. In the spring of 2020 St. Theresa will be hosting the very popular REBOOT. This is a group to watch!

The final presentation was by Youth Minister of St. Peter's Church in Danbury, Mike Falbo. Falbo spoke from the heart about the challenges and joys of working in a multicultural community. His experiences taught him that the youth needed a "home" of sorts where they could encounter Christ in their hearts.

Many of the youth were coming home from school to clean, cook and take care of their siblings because mom and dad worked two jobs. They needed a place, a youth group where they could be kids and connect with one another.

Falbo explained that a retreat style approach to youth group

was the best way for them to encounter their faith. "Trunk or Treat" or pizza once a month, he joked, was a "fail." He advises, step back and try to understand what the youth need. It comes from building a community and trust with the youth and then taking the time to listen, to empathize, to learn from them what they need and want to deepen their faith. "They need to experience Jesus in their heart not just know of Jesus in their mind," Falbo said.

The evening concluded with a Family Bible Challenge Trivia activity and a lively musical performance by the Redemptoris Mater Seminarians.

(Information related to Foundations in Faith, the Youth in Action Grant and much more can be found at www.foundationsinfaith.org or email Kelly.weldon@diobpt.)

The Foundations in Faith Board of Trustees congratulates the following recipients:

St. John Paul II Fund

Basilica of St. John the Evangelist—"Catholic Adventures" millennial street evangelists

Christ the King Church

Holy Name of Jesus Parish

Our Lady of Parish Church—youth led theater group – "Our Lives Original Players"

St. Aloysius Church

St. Andrew Church

St. Emery Church

St. Joseph Parish—Raise consciousness among mothers' project

St. Luke's Church—Teen Communications/Social Media Intern Program

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Church—Expand successful WALK youth group to middle schoolers

St. Matthew Parish—Pray, Eat, Meet – millennial diner discussion group

St. Michael Archangel Church

St. Patrick Church

St. Peter Church—retreat-style youth ministry

St. Philip Church

St. Rose of Lima Church—Alpha Build Out—teen missionary discipleship

St. Theresa Parish—STAY program expansion, host 2020 REBOOT

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish

The Church of Blessed Sacrament

The Leadership Institute—Family Bible Challenge and youth retreat stipends

St. John Vianney Fund

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St. Charles Borromeo Fund

St. John Fisher Seminary—Office of Vocations & support for seminarian formation

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Book Review

'The soul should always stand ajar'

By **BARRY WALLACE**

If you've ever read Emily Dickinson, or are interested in the spiritual bonds between religion and poetry you will find common ground with Monsignor Charles M. Murphy's new book, *Mystical Prayer, The Poetic Example Of Emily Dickinson*. It is a trim but bountiful 117 pages just published by the Liturgical Press.

Father Murphy has done his homework in this compact but challenging volume. He reads Dickinson's work perceptively and relates it to the Christian tradition. Dickinson was an heir to the grim Calvinism of Puritan New England. She couldn't accept or reject her spiritual heritage. Murphy calls her an "unbelieving believer," and explores her faith response through some of the greatest Christian poetry ever written. "In this book I reintroduce Emily Dickinson's poem as examples of mystical prayer in the light of Christian tradition, and of St. Teresa of Avila in particular."

Father Murphy beautifully

illustrates his ideas with a remarkable selection of Dickinson's work and a deep knowledge of scripture and mystical prayer. It is surprising in such a slight volume to come across so much information with references to Gregory of Nyssa, Therese of Lisieux, Mother Teresa, Catherine of Siena, John of the Cross, Benedict XVI and Pope Francis. This could've been a much longer study, but it functions as a brilliant introduction to Dickinson and signs of mystical experience. It is written clearly and directly, a book that both scholars and interested readers will draw from.

Father Murphy identifies three conditions for mystical prayer: solitude, asceticism and place. These are abundant in Dickinson's poetry. She practiced a lifelong solitude despite a busy life with family obligations. Her solitude and her poetry became a form of prayer, a piercing awareness of God's presence, and sometimes a piercing loneliness that He wasn't there.

"Growth of Man—
like Growth of Nature—

Gravitates within—
Atmosphere, and Sun
endorse it—
But it stir alone—

Each—it's difficult Ideal
Must achieve—Itself—
Through the solitary prowess
Of a Silent Life..."

Dickinson isn't an easy poet but Murphy takes us through her greatest poems making them clear and accessible and celebrating her wild delight in God and nature. Dickinson knew the landscape of Amherst like St. Anthony of Egypt knew the desert. The hills and valleys of New England were her Eden and her Calvary. In the seasons and the flowers she kept up a prayerful dialogue with a living God. She was a feminist and a quiet rebel, and along the way she wrote some of the most magnificent poetry in all of world literature. For Murphy it was ultimately a prayer of faith and a witness to "possibility". She didn't always find God in her life, but she remained open.

The Soul should always stand ajar.

That if the heaven
require
He will not be obliged
to wait.

Her readiness to find God came from experiences of ecstasy, periods of depression, seasons of doubt, but it was her desire for love that honed her sensitivity to God. Mystical prayer has a powerful and personal gravity that ties us to earth while we reach for transcendence.

After I read this book through, I turned to the first page and started again. Murphy's *Mystical Prayer* is obviously the work of long years of study and delight in Emily Dickinson's poetry, as well as a profound experience of mystical prayer. It amazes me that he can, in short form, bring to life the poet from Amherst as richly as he does. I've read much longer studies that didn't have the depth of insight about Dickinson and the embrace of her wounded humanity. In this case the bond between the poet and Father Murphy yield an honest and searching portrait of one of America's most enigmatic geniuses.

Best of all, Murphy enlarged my sense of prayer through poetry. It is clear that he has learned to pray with the poets, and to reflect on the many ways that God reaches us if we "leave the

MYSTICAL PRAYER

THE POETIC EXAMPLE OF
EMILY DICKINSON



Charles M. Murphy

door ajar."

Dickinson heard God in the chirp of crickets and in the songs of the oriole. She felt called to God by the beauty of his Creation. She had sought Him in so many places, but ironically realized that she was the one being sought.

"Nature and God—

I neither knew
Yet both so well knew me
They startled like Executors
Of My identity."

Murphy has given us a new look at the ever-enchanting imagination of Emily Dickinson, and given us the opportunity to find God in prayerful listening and joy in witness of poetry.

(Editor's Note: Father Charles Murphy, the book's author, recently visited St. Joseph Parish in Danbury at the invitation of Father Samuel V. Scott, pastor, to discuss his book on "Mystical Prayer" and sign books for those in attendance.)

2019 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

If you have made a pledge to the Capital Campaign this year your 2019 Annual Catholic Appeal is included in that contribution. If your parish is participating in the 2019 Annual Catholic Appeal there is still time to make your gift.



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LOURDES FROM PAGE 25

N.Y., 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.

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, following the loving example of St. Bernadette in simplicity, humility and obedience." More than 3,000 members of the North American Volunteers have served at Lourdes.

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 people have taken part in 44 states and 19 countries. The Virtual Pilgrimage began in Kansas, when three pilgrims brought it to Holy Spirit Church in Overland Park. Those who participate will receive a plenary indulgence granted by papal decree of Benedict XVI.

October 2019

Sports

St. Joe's Wallace clicks at quarterback

By **DON HARRISON**

How does a coach replace a two-time All-State quarterback who passed for 88 touchdowns in steering his football team to back-to-back 12-1 seasons and a pair of CIAC state championships?

If you're Joe Della Vecchia at St. Joseph High School, you convert your All-FCIAC second-team safety into a signal caller.

The new quarterback's name is Jack Wallace, and all he did in his first two games this fall was complete 77 percent of his passes (23-30, 456 yards, 8 touchdowns) to spark the Cadets to stress-free victories over Brien McMahon (45-0) and Notre Dame-West Haven (42-7).

Wallace, a likeable 6-foot-1, 177-pound junior, shrugs off his accomplishments in his new role and smiles. "The most important thing is we won. We played well," he says.

Della Vecchia isn't surprised by the youngster's successful transition from defense to offense. "He was also the backup (quarterback) last year, and he played quarterback on our freshman team," the coach says. "He worked tirelessly all year to really learn the position. When Dave (Summers) was still here at school and then during the summer, he helped Jack a lot."

Wallace was given the undeniable undertaking of succeeding

David Summers, who, in all probability, is the greatest passer in St. Joe's annals. Summers, now a freshman member of the Syracuse varsity squad, capped his record-setting two-year career with the Cadets by passing for six touchdowns in the 70-18 triumph over Berlin in the Class M state title game last December. He complemented his passing (17-24, 367 yards, zero interceptions) that evening with a two-yard scoring run.

"I learned a lot from Dave," Wallace admits. "He was a pocket passer and I'm more of a dual threat. His arm was stronger, but my legs are a little bit better, and he'll tell you that, too."

As was the case in the past two championship seasons, the 2019 Cadets are blessed with a pair of outstanding wide receivers: Senior co-captain Will Diamantis and junior Brady Hutchison. In the opener at McMahon, Hutchison was on the receiving end of three of Wallace's five touchdown passes. Diamantis, who was selected to the Coaches All-State team last year, duplicated that feat by catching three TD aerials in the home opener against Notre Dame. He also completed a 67-yard touchdown pass to senior Austin Jose after receiving a pass from Wallace.

"Will, who has been a starter since sophomore year, has helped me in my transition," explains Wallace, who played cornerback

as a freshman before moving to safety last year. "Brady and I have chemistry since we were freshmen."

Jack is the third Wallace family member to study at St. Joseph. His father, Mike Wallace, was a fine offensive lineman for Coach Christy Hayes' state championship teams in 1983 and '84. Jack's older sister, Caroline, played four years of varsity soccer there and is now attending Michigan, their dad's alma mater.

Jack Wallace has become accustomed to winning in two sports. In addition to St. Joe's back-to-back state titles in football, he was the regular second baseman for Coach Jim Chaves' Class M state championship baseball team last spring.

He's also an honors student in the classroom. And each day he arrives at school at 7 a.m. to attend an UConn class in civics, for which he'll receive college credits.

So, add to the mix four other senior co-captains, Jaden Shirden, the undersized (5-8, 180 pounds) All-State running back, who entered his final season with a school-record 69 career touchdowns; All-State defensive end Mike Morrissey, All-FCIAC linebacker Alex Pagliarini and center Nick DiIorio, as well as 320-pound senior nose guard Jermaine Williams, also a 2018 All-State selection, and it's clear the Cadets possess the nucleus for another state title.



JACK WALLACE'S TRANSITION from safety to quarterback was a no-brainer. The St. Joseph High junior passed for five touchdowns in his debut and followed up with three more scoring aerials in game two—both victories. (PHOTOS BY TINA BAYER)



HARTFORD HEALTHCARE FROM PAGE 27

market and this institution.... We intend to treat St. V's as a destination center and we intend to be here and be responsive to the community."

Bill Hoey, vice president of mission integration for St. Vincent's, who is responsible for ensuring compliance with Catholic healthcare doctrine, said, "We are a Catholic hospital that will be fully adherent to the ethical and religious directives. The 40-foot cross will stay on the building, and we will maintain our chapel, where we reserve the Eucharist. In addition, the bishop has the right of approval for the manager of spiritual care as well as the right to approve the leader of mission integration.

There will be a mission services committee of the board, just like a finance committee of the board, and annual meetings with the president, Vince DiBattista and myself. From the perspective of operating as a Catholic hospital, nothing changes except the name becomes Hartford Healthcare — St. Vincent's Medical Center."

Hoey, who has been at the hospital for a decade, said its Catholic identity is firmly established. There is morning and evening prayer, daily Mass that is broadcast into the patients' rooms, the services of three full-time priest chaplains and a Catholic deacon who serves as manager of spiritual care.

Hoey said that one of six

patients in America is in a Catholic hospital, and that their existence is largely attributable to women religious who from the mid-to-late 1800s started to build a vast network of Catholic hospitals across America.

"In 1903 in Bridgeport, Connecticut, if you were not a white Anglo-Saxon Protestant, you could not go to the only hospital in the city, so a group of doctors approached the pastor of St. Patrick's Church and asked him to open a hospital that would treat everybody."

Father James Nihill traveled to Emmitsburg, Maryland, and enlisted the services of Sister Laura Eckenrode and six young Daughters of Charity who came

to Bridgeport and in two years raised \$250,000 to build St. Vincent's Hospital.

"Catholic healthcare exists to take care of the poor, the needy, the vulnerable and the least among us and to live out the Gospel of Matthew," Hoey said. He pointed to examples of that mission at St. Vincent's, including a farmers' market in front of the hospital, which doubles food stamps for customers, and a free pharmacy in Bridgeport, which last year filled 10,500 prescriptions with a wholesale value of \$2.2 million and gave away medication to people without insurance.

"To not have a Catholic hospital in the Diocese of Bridgeport

would have been a big loss," Hoey said, also pointing to its importance in evangelization and spreading the faith to people.

"Where are the people who are not going to Church going to be reconnected?" he asked. "When you have a life-altering diagnosis or a life-shattering event and you end up in the hospital, what a wonderful opportunity to see the Church in action. The more we can get our priests and deacons visiting people in the hospital, the better. What an opportunity to reconnect with people. Where does evangelization take place? When people are in crisis. There you find the Church in action...when people are in need."

Local News

Diaconate Discovery Evenings Return

Have you ever wondered if you were being “called” to discern the diaconate? Has someone, your pastor, a priest or a deacon ever mentioned to you that they can see you as deacon someday? Do you feel that God calling you

to live your faith differently, perhaps as a deacon? Want to learn more about how to sort this all out?

Join Deacon Tim Bolton and explore some of these questions and others that you may have

about the Diaconate. Diaconate Discovery Evenings will be a consistent space to wonder, explore, pray and share with other men of faith regarding serving the Church as a Permanent Deacon.

Be with other men of faith



DIACONATE DISCOVERY EVENINGS—Deacon Tim Bolton, coordinator of Diaconate Vocations for the Diocese of Bridgeport, has announced a series of meetings in which men can learn more about the diaconate and begin to discern a vocation to serve.

Date	Time	Parish	Address
09-12-19	7pm – 8:30pm	St. Jude	707 Monroe Tpke., Monroe
10-10-19	7pm – 8:30pm	St. Marguerite Bourgeoys	138 Candlewood Lake Rd., Brookfield
11-07-19	7pm – 8:30pm	St. Bridget of Ireland	278 Strawberry Hill Ave., Stamford
12-12-19	7pm – 8:30pm	St. Jude	707 Monroe Tpke., Monroe
01-09-20	7pm – 8:30pm	St. Marguerite Bourgeoys	138 Candlewood Lake Rd., Brookfield
02-06-20	7pm – 8:30pm	St. Bridget of Ireland	278 Strawberry Hill Ave., Stamford
03-12-20	7pm – 8:30pm	St. Jude	707 Monroe Tpke., Monroe
04-09-20	7pm – 8:30pm	St. Marguerite Bourgeoys	138 Candlewood Lake Rd., Brookfield
05-07-20	7pm – 8:30pm	St. Bridget of Ireland	278 Strawberry Hill Ave., Stamford
06-11-20	7pm – 8:30pm	St. Jude	707 Monroe Tpke., Monroe
07-27-19	7pm – 8:30pm	St. Marguerite Bourgeoys	138 Candlewood Lake Rd., Brookfield

who are wondering if God is calling them to serve as a deacon.

To have an opportunity for prayer and reflection.

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Meet deacons from around the diocese witnessing their ministries and journeys of faith.

We now have discovery evenings available at three different locations.

If you are interested in attending, or have any questions, please feel free to contact Deacon Tim Bolton, Coordinator of Diaconate Vocations, dnbolton@diobpt.org

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OCTOBER	YEAR
14	Msgr. Raymond H. Guidone1965
15	Msgr. William Schultz.....2013
16	Msgr. John V. Horgan Kung.....2009
17	Msgr. Benedict Tighe2004
18	Bishop Walter W. Curtis1997
19	Rev. Cornelius J. Looney1974
22	Msgr. David F. Bannon.....1979
	Rev. Louis Dytkowski2016
	Deacon Donald Fonseca1989
27	Rev. Robert C. Franklin1991
	Msgr. Thomas J. Whalen2012
28	Deacon John Kucera.....2007
29	Rev. Michael A. D’Elia2000
30	Msgr. Leo M. Finn.....1960
31	Rev. Francis D. McKenna.....1989
NOVEMBER	YEAR
3	Msgr. Joseph A. Heffernan.....1989
	Deacon Thomas P. Freibott.....2002
6	Rev. Bernard Dolan2010
9	Rev. Stephen A. Grinvalsky1972
	Deacon Domingo Reverón.....2014
10	Rev. Gerard C. Mason1993
11	Msgr. Victor J. Torres-Frias.....1995
13	Msgr. Alphonse J. V. Fiedorczyk.....1987
15	Rev. M. Steven Barrett, S.S.2000
	Rev. John P. Odie1999

Después de 47 años feligrés

Se convierte en ciudadana estadounidense

Por MARICARMEN GODOY

BRIDGEPORT—Rosse Mary Colón, nativa de Oruro, del Departamento de Yambelada, Bolivia; vino desde su país natal hacia Bridgeport hace 47 años y después de peregrinar en varias organizaciones para que le ayuden a tramitar la ciudadanía, finalmente la oficina de Caridades Católicas de la Diócesis de Bridgeport a través de la Oficina de Servicios Legales de Inmigración, le ayudó con todo trámite para que el pasado 17 de septiembre, día reconocido como el Día de la Ciudadanía, optara por la Ciudadanía.

Doña Rosse Mary, madre de tres hijos, todos nacidos en los Estados Unidos y esposa de don Luis Colón, llegó a Bridgeport después de que su padre le envió hasta el país como un “regalo de viaje”, ella tenía la intención de profesar como religiosa y estuvo decidida a seguir todos los pasos para convertirse en monja; pero su destino al pisar Bridgeport fue conocer a Luis Colón, un puertorriqueño de Arecibo, enamorarse a primera vista y casarse.

Matrimonio que le obligó a permanecer en el país desde hace 47 años, tiempo en el que nunca más ha regresado a Bolivia ni tampoco ha salido a ningún otro país, debido a que doña Rosse Mary dice es porque quería criar a sus hijos en forma personal y eso no le dio tiempo a planear viajes fuera del país.

“Fui a Puerto Rico a conocer y visitar a los suegros y a la familia de mi esposo, pero al morir mis padres en la década de los 80 prácticamente ya no encontraba las razones suficientes para ir a Bolivia, así que decidí no volver”, cuenta doña Rosse Mary, quien afirma que decidió hacerse ciudadana de los Estados Unidos porque “aquí se va a quedar para siempre y por tanto, es el paso apropiado que debe dar”.

¿Se hizo ciudadana de los Estados Unidos para tener su pasaporte azul o para votar?, con ingenuidad y una profunda sencillez, doña Rosse Mary responde: “No está en mis planes tramitar el pasaporte de los Estados Unidos. ¿Votar?, ¡Eso sí, porque yo quiero que los Estados Unidos siga siendo un gran país y por eso hay que votar para elegir autori-

dades adecuadas”.

A esta respuesta, Alex Arévalo, de Caridades Católicas, reafirma que doña Rosse Mary, es Residente Legal desde 1975, nunca fue su prioridad preparar sus papeles para tramitar la Ciudadanía, de hecho que hasta su Tarjeta de Residencia estuvo expirada, pero como es una paciente de diálisis su deber como consejero legal era decirle que debía tramitar su ciudadanía para que pudiera contar con los beneficios que da el país a sus ciudadanos.

Doña Rosse Mary, es devota de Nuestra Señora del Socavón, imagen venerada en Bolivia y también de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, por eso que cuando decidió buscar la forma para tramitar la ciudadanía estadounidense bajo la ley de naturalización, se encomendó a su advogada y dijo: “¡Virgencita!, si es que yo debo de ser de este país (EEUU) abre todos los caminos y guía mis pasos para que así sea. ¡Y de pronto!, en menos de lo que creí el Sr. Alex Arévalo, de la oficina de Inmigración de Caridades Católicas de Bridgeport me dijo: Ya está en buen camino su trámite, pronto tendrá noticias”.

Y así fue, un día menos pensado le llegó la tarjeta y un papel que le informaba que debía ir a jurar la bandera y recibir sus documentos de la Ciudadanía en Bridgeport, fecha pautada para el 17 de septiembre, día en que el Municipio de Bridgeport decidió unirse a las 85 ciudades del país, que en honor a los inmigrantes, permite que sus residentes juramenten lealtad al país y reciban su ciudadanía dentro de la ley de naturalización, dentro de sus propios municipios.

Ese día de juramentación fue memorable para doña Rosse Mary, no solo por convertirse en ciudadana de los Estados Unidos, sino porque fue la única boliviana que tomó el juramento. “Todos me aplaudieron, todos me felicitaban. Ser la única boliviana en medio de tanta gente me sentí orgullosa de ser de ahí”, dijo, tierra en donde solo vive su hermano mayor con su familia.

Doña Rosse Mary no tiene planes grandes para su futuro, solo desea seguir yendo a misa a la iglesia de Saint Charles, aun cuando extraña mucho la



LA OFICINA DE SERVICIOS LEGALES de Inmigración de Caridades Católicas de Bridgeport, ha ayudado a decenas de residentes elegibles a tramitar la ciudadanía, este año gracias al programa nacional: “Ciudades por la Ciudadanía”, doña Rosse Mary Colón, de Bridgeport, juró la bandera en este municipio y se convirtió en la única boliviana en recibir este beneficio.

Catedral de San Agustín, lugar al que acudía cada semana para la eucaristía.

También agradece a su hijo Jorge, que es mecánico automotriz profesional, porque atiende en forma personal a su esposo y a ella en el cuidado de salud y en las compras de la casa. “Mi hijo es el mejor muchacho del mundo. Gracias a él mi marido y yo acudimos a las citas médicas. Porque ahora que ya somos grandes los achaques de salud están a la

orden del día”, indicó.

A propósito de la juramentación de doña Rosse Mary como ciudadana estadounidense bajo el programa: “Ciudades por la ciudadanía”, el alcalde Joe Ganim, repuso: “Esta es una iniciativa nacional destinada a aumentar la ciudadanía entre los residentes permanentes elegibles. Bridgeport es una ciudad fundada por inmigrantes y continúa presumiendo de una población de rica diversidad cultural. Estamos orgullosos

de unirnos a otros municipios como miembros de la red de Ciudades por la Ciudadanía, y orgullosos de apoyar a los miembros de nuestra comunidad de inmigrantes en su camino hacia la ciudadanía”.

Más de 8.8 millones de residentes permanentes legales (LPR) son elegibles para naturalizarse en los Estados Unidos. Cities for Citizenship ha ayudado a romper las barreras para aquellos que podrían no solicitar la ciudadanía. En los últimos años, se lanzó la subvención “America is Home” para apoyar los esfuerzos de naturalización nuevos y emergentes a fin de aumentar las tasas de naturalización entre la comunidad inmigrante.

En Numeros de Personas:

1,788,778 asistieron a programas relacionados con la ciudadanía

48,283 iniciaron el proceso de ciudadanía y solicitaron la ciudadanía

42,463 recibieron información financiera (exención, asesoramiento con micro préstamos)

30,079 asistidos con servicios de empoderamiento financiero ■

Parish coordinators of Safe Environments come together

By ELIZABETH CLYONS

BRIDGEPORT—“Thank you for the important work you do to protect children and young people,” Bishop Frank J. Caggiano said to a room full of parish coordinators of Safe Environments at today’s appreciation luncheon held in Queen of Saints Hall at the Catholic Center.

The bishop said that out of this great evil we hope and pray that we find the grace for healing and reconciliation.

“The Church must be the place where young people can be themselves,” said the bishop, encouraging the coordinators that they play a crucial role in the Church and in the lives of the young people entrusted to them.

“In a time when many young people are looking for



someone to care for them, you are their spiritual mothers and fathers,” the bishop said.

The bishop praised the great work of Director of Safe Environments Erin Neil and her team, boasting the large numbers of 13,000 adults and 20,000 children who have gone through the VIRTUS training program.

“Because of your work,” said the bishop, “many young people will not have to experience the

same suffering as others have.”

Both Erin Neil and the bishop thanked the parish coordinators of safe environments for all the work they do.

Leaders from the diocesan Office of Safe Environments were available to answer any questions and meet with coordinators.

(For more information on Safe Environments in the Diocese of Bridgeport visit www.bridgeport-diocese.org/safe-environments.) ■

Column: Thomas Hicks



Hebrews and us

POTPOURRI

BY THOMAS H. HICKS

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

The Letter to the Hebrews can be quite intimidating. It was not written by St. Paul, the author is unknown, and it is not a letter, but a sermon. For many Catholics, Hebrews has become the unknown text, yet Hebrews is one of the most meaningful texts in the New Testament. The writer of Hebrews has much to say to Catholics today. It was written for Christians who were tempted to fall away from the faith. The writer seeks to bolster their faith and encourage them to persevere. As one commentator on Hebrews stated: "Prepare to be changed when you drink deeply from Hebrews. It will leave you better than when you started."

There's a grand opening to the Letter. "At various times in the past and in various ways God has spoken to our ancestors through the prophets. But in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through His Son, the Son He has appointed to inherit everything and through whom He made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of His nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command (1:1-3). (Two other New Testament writings have powerful, memorable beginnings: John 1:1-5 and First John 1:1-5.)

In Hebrews, Christ is described as "the perfect copy of God's nature." This asserts that Christ shares in everything that

God is in His divine nature. Thus we look to Christ for the full revelation of the divine nature. We're told that Jesus not only calls the universe into existence, he constantly sustains it by his powerful word.

The preacher tells how through his own death and resurrection, Christ takes away the power of death and "delivers all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage" (2:14-15). He tells his readers how in Christ they have a high-priest who enables them with confidence to draw near to the throne of God and receive mercy and find grace to help them in time of need (4:16). He is giving reasons for staying with the faith.

Then in chapter 5 we meet a sudden and surprising passage. In verse 12 he suddenly tells his readers that the major problem is that they need milk, not solid food. It's a remarkable rebuke that must have burst upon its hearers like a sudden cold shower. The Preacher clearly wants to wake them up. He accuses them of being "sluggish" in their willingness to learn more about the faith. He is echoing St. Paul who

in First Corinthians 3:1-2 made the same criticism: "I could only address you as people who are mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready."

The author of Hebrews must have known his audience quite well, to be able to make his analysis about where they were intellectually and spiritually, and to have the courage to say it straight to them. He tells them that everyone who drinks milk is unskilled in the word of God.

Such people are just babies. Mature people need solid food (5:12).

A commentator on these words from the Letter to the Hebrews writes the following:

"In our churches today we need to recognize this same tendency. It is one thing for people who are genuinely young in the faith to say 'let's keep it simple and easy.' It is quite another thing for people who have been Catholic for some time to say, or imply, 'We're too lazy to do that.' Learning more about the Christian faith is a way of growing in strength in our praying, our living, our work. Holding back from such learning perhaps with a false humility of 'I'm not good at understanding these things' when we really mean 'I can't be bothered to try,' which is a way of saying that we want to remain spiritual babies. The writer of Hebrews tells his readers that they ought to grow up to the stage where they can talk intelligently with those who are younger in the faith. They ought to have been on solid food some time, but they still seem to need more milk.

"There are the Catholic ABCs, the rudimentary teachings, some basics. Most of our congregations don't even know much about them. Many in our churches couldn't tell you why we baptize people, what precisely the resurrection is. It's not, I think, that people learned the ABCs long ago, and forgotten it. No: they haven't ever learned it in the first place. And the writer of Hebrews

wants them to go deeper, to teach them more developed and wide-ranging truths."

In particular, the author of Hebrews and the commentator on his sermon want to see grown-up Christian people: people and communities who have learned deeply about the faith. It is important to remind people that there is such a thing as maturity in the faith, that they should be seeking it, and that mature people normally need, and indeed prefer, solid food. With solid food one experiences new

kinds of life and love; you experience the Bible like a long cool-drink on a hot day, or like solid food when you haven't realized how hungry you were.

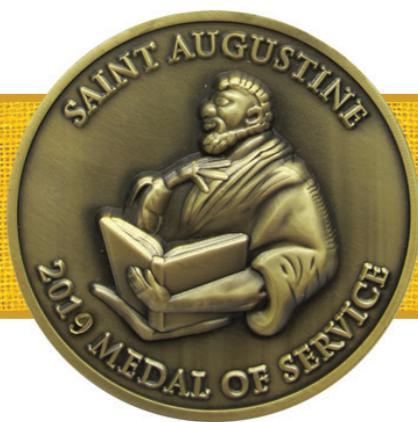
The commentator on Hebrews continues: "After people have learned the ABCs of the Christian faith, they must go on from there. Most do not. What's gone wrong? There's been a collapse in teaching the faith. There is a massive failure on the part of Catholic educators, preachers, catechists and evangelists. I have come to believe that the 10-minute homily on a Sunday morning is not sufficient for Catholics to grow in their faith. Usually, the homilies give trite rehashes of some ABCs. Many of our sermons are couched in predictable words. The majority of people who have drifted away from the Church have left not in anger but in disappointment. Many say: 'I never felt that my spiritual needs were being met.'"

Pope Francis often speaks of wanting an Adult Church.

Research claims that, among Catholics, attempts to offer solid Bible Studies and lectures are attended by less than one-half of one percent.

The claim is made that reverent actions of believers are just as effective, if not more so, as tools of catechesis. There is some truth to this, but far from the whole truth. As the author of Hebrews recognized, steadfast faithfulness needs more than that.

Cf. N.T. Wright, *Hebrews For Everyone*, John Knox Press, Louisville, KY, pp.51-58. ■

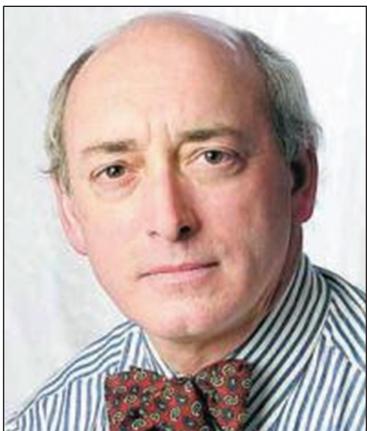


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Column: Joe Pisani



It's time to live and let live

SWIMMING UPSTREAM

BY JOE PISANI

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

I still remember sitting in the last pew at church as a teenager back in 1968 because sooner or later I'd have to get up and walk out once the pastor started defending the Vietnam War.

If that wasn't bad enough, I had to sit at the dinner table and listen to my father, a World War II veteran who took part in the liberation of Paris, defend U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia every night when the 6 o'clock news came on. During that era, our political differences were a constant source of resentment, anger and hysteria...a lot like today. Or in the inimitable words of Yogi Berra, "It's deja vu all over again."

There was also the time, one of many, when I complained to my mother about the "hypocrites" in church, who seemed to be in every pew, surrounding me. Whenever I issued my teenage denunciation, she'd respond with her familiar rejoinder: "That's why they go to church...because they're not perfect like you."

I grew up in an era when teenagers constantly tossed around words like "hypocrite," "nonconformist" and "rebel." We were separated from the adult world by a great divide called "The Generation Gap." Baby Boomers were on one side of the abyss, and the Greatest Generation was on the other, and never the twain would meet.

My views, however, changed. Now, I believe the Greatest Generation knew a lot more, endured a lot more and complained a lot less than my generation. In so many ways, they held America and the Church together.

We live in another tumultuous time when divisions separate us, and sometimes it seems there's no hope for reconciliation or

agreement in our country or in the Church.

Over the years, I've met countless Catholics who stopped going to Mass for any number of

"The greatest tragedy is to let human imperfection...come between us and Christ in the Eucharist."

reasons. Sister Immaculata hit a girl's knuckles with a 16-inch ruler in the fourth grade. Father Ed yelled at a boy in confession. A family couldn't get a priest to come to the hospital. There were

too many sermons about money. There were too many sermons about politics. The priest was too conservative. The priest was too liberal. And, of course, the sex abuse scandal.

More than once, I've thought about leaving the Church, but the thought passes quickly because at the end of the day, there's nowhere else to go. I can't walk away from—to use a colloquial phrase—the real deal. I can't walk away from the Real Presence in the Eucharist. If that has no meaning for you, you probably didn't get good enough instruction in catechism, or like a segment of Catholics, you don't believe a fundamental truth of Catholicism—that Jesus is really present, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Eucharist you receive at Mass.

No one else offers the real deal. Their music may be better, their fellowship may be better, and their preaching may be better, but that's where it ends.

To my thinking, there are a lot of excuses, but not one good reason, to leave. Certainly not politics. (At one time or another, we all confront the temptation of letting politics pollute our faith.) So what should you do when anger gets the best of you?

As my mother told me: Change pews. Change Masses. Live and let live.

As evangelicals say, "We're all sinners." You and me, priests and religious, even the Pope. We're less than perfect. And the greatest tragedy is to let human imperfection, an insult, a slight, an oversight, a scandal or politics come between us and Christ in the Eucharist.

Whenever the celebrated novelist Walker Percy was asked why he converted to Catholicism, he'd respond, "What else is there?"

Percy believed there was nothing else. His path to Catholicism had been marked by crises, tragedies and disbelief.

He graduated from Columbia University School of Medicine and briefly practiced in New York City before contracting tuberculosis, which led to a spiritual crisis. His search, like that of Augustine and Dorothy Day, inevitably led to the realization that the answers he was looking for could only be found in the tabernacle and the eternal truths of the Catholic Church. What else is there?

I should say that the priest who supported the Vietnam War is one of my dear friends today. There are many people I know who have different views from mine, but I love them all ... or at least I try to. Live and let live. ■

HOLY LAND FROM PAGE 21

to Donovan, the 14 have already had a reunion and are planning a future Bible study.

"They want to unpack Scripture as they did in the Holy Land," he said. "It's easy to see our faith as detached from ourselves, but when you're in such a place as the Holy Land, you see it's not just 'Sunday' anymore. We listened, we breathed, we learned."

And that learning came in ways as diverse as the pilgrims themselves who walked the path

of Jesus. Whether it was similar to Renzi's "greater appreciation of Jesus' suffering" or Readey's heightened "awareness of what the Apostles faced," each one of these travelers grew in their understanding of Jesus' missive.

"I learned that as a Catholic, we must open our arms to all," said Stewart. "We must truly live by Jesus' example of love and acceptance and open ourselves to the plans God has in store for us." ■

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Bits and Pieces

BIBLE STUDY—Parish of St. Catherine of Siena and St. Agnes, Riverside—**Mon. evenings, now–Nov. 25, 7:30-9 pm** or **Tues. mornings, now–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.

ST. VINCENT'S NURSES AND FRIENDS invite you to a day of recollection on **Sat., Oct. 12 from 9 am-3 pm** at St. Joseph's Adult Daycare Center. The cost is \$10 and will include a continental breakfast and lunch. Contact Judy Duva at 203.372.5114 for reservations.

ST. MARGUERITE PARISH IN BROOKFIELD will be having an outdoor Rosary Rally on **Sat., Oct. 12 at 12 noon** in front of the Stature of Our Lady to celebrate the 102nd anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima and the Miracle of the Sun. Please bring a Rosary and in case of rain, an umbrella, as we will be outside, rain or shine. There will be limited seating for those who are unable to stand for the full service. Please arrive by 11:45 to ensure parking and a prompt noon start of this special service.

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 or mail to St. Ann's.

CHRIST THE KING'S WOMEN'S GROUP will meet this month on **Tues., Oct. 15** featuring guest speaker Fr. Walsh, who will discuss the trip to Italy in May.

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.ctcatholicmen.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 at **9:30 am on Sat., Oct. 19** with Fr. Gene Szantyr and **Sat., Nov. 16** with Fr. Larry Carew. After Mass, there will be a social and meeting held in the Parish Hall. All are welcome! For further information, call Fran Karpiej, OFS, at 203.452.7040 or paxjc@aol.com.

WOMEN, WINE AND THE DIVINE—A new women's group is starting for all women

in Stamford! These monthly gatherings will feature a wine and cheese social, a time for fellowship with other sisters in Christ, a spiritual talk and a time of prayer. All women (over 21) are invited! The nights will be from **7:30-9 pm (Oct 21, Nov 18, and Dec 16)** at the house of the Marchettis (29 Carriage Drive South, Stamford). This event is sponsored by St. John's Basilica. All are invited!

THE LAST THINGS: A CONVERSATION WITH PETER KREEFT will be taking place at the Catholic Center on **Sat., Oct. 19 at 9 am** at the Catholic Center in Bridgeport. This event is sponsored by The Leadership Institute. For more info visit formationreimagined.org.

THE ST. ANDREW'S DINNER will be held at St. John Fisher Seminary in Stamford on **Tues., Oct. 22** beginning at **5:30 pm**. All priests are encouraged to invite and accompany young men in high school who may be considering the priesthood. Please RSVP by **Tues., Oct. 15** to Amanda Day at: aday@diobpt.org

org or 203.322.5331.

CREDO YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY IN SOUTH NORWALK meets twice a month on **Wed. evenings from 7-9 pm** at St. Joseph in South Norwalk. Young adults ages 21-31 are welcome! On **Oct. 23** there will be a Spiritual Gathering Night. For more info visit stjospehson.org/credo.

STRATFORD KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ST. JAMES COUNCIL #2370 will hold a charity roast beef dinner **Thurs., Oct. 24 at 6:30 pm** in the Parish hall of Holy Name of Jesus Church, in Stratford. Admission is \$13 at the door. Reservation required by calling Chip Krafnick at 203.581.2516 by **Mon. Oct. 21**. Please do not call after **7 pm**. Please bring a canned good or other non-perishable food item for K of C Food for Families Drive.

ST. MARGARET SHRINE ANNUAL ROAST FUNDRAISER is being held on **Sun., Oct. 27 at 1 pm** at Oronoque Country Club in Stratford. Cost is \$55 per person.

To make a reservation call the Shrine Office at: 203.333.9627. Join us in an afternoon of laughter and song in the grand tradition of Dean Martin to support our Diocesan Shrine. Roastees are Lucia Palmieri and Nancy Teixeira.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON DONATING A BRICK AT ST. MARGARET SHRINE IN BRIDGEPORT for a Veteran, from the U.S. Military and our allies call: 203.345.3244 or email: artfalco@optonline.net. In order to ensure installation for Christmas, the deadline for donating a Brick to Our Veterans Memorial, is **Fri., Nov. 1**.

ST. JUDE PARISH CELEBRATES the 30th Anniversary of the dedication of the church. On **Fri., Nov. 1 at 7 pm** there will be Mass and Adoration for All Saints Day; **Sat., Nov. 2 at 8 am** there will be morning Mass and breakfast and from **6:30-10:30 pm** there will be a dinner dance at Stone Barn Inn. To make reservations call 203.261.6404 or 203.261.8024.

St. Matthew's honors Msgr. Walter

NORWALK—"When I gather together with you, I know I am with family," Monsignor Walter Orłowski addressed the congregation during his homily at a recent Mass of Thanksgiving, held in honor of the 40th Anniversary of his Ordination.

Joy, laughter, priests, religious, dignitaries and five generations of parishioners packed the church. Processing into Mass were representatives from the 1,016 baptized by Monsignor while at St. Matthew, 2,252 First Communicants, 1,599 young adults he prepared for Confirmation and 407 Couples who received the Sacrament of Matrimony.

"I've spent more than a third of my life here at St. Matthew," said Monsignor. "There has never been a day or week when one of you hasn't come up to me with a prayer, word of support or a hug. It has meant the world to me." "It is you who inspires us,"



he said to the faithful. "It is you who makes us better priests. It is you who fills us with your great spirituality that you possess in the community of St. Matthew. Forty years of priesthood has been a magnificent gift; I am blessed by you. Twenty-five years and I have never felt alone - you have been there every step of the way. All of the great people of St. Matthew—it is you who make this place work. And I am grateful to God for you. God will take care of you, trust me," Monsignor said.

At the end of Mass, Norwalk Mayor Harry W. Rilling and Lucia Rilling presented Msgr. Walter with a City of Norwalk Proclamation and Senator Bob Duff, Senate Majority Leader presented a CT General Assembly Citation recognizing Monsignor's milestone service contributions to the community.

The Mass was followed by a reception in the great room with hors d'oeuvres served and souvenir prayer cards given out. ■

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Bits and Pieces

* For more events happening around the diocese, visit our website calendar at: dobcalendar.bridgeportdiocese.org.

On **Sun., Nov. 3 from 3-4:30 pm** there will be a Celebration of Music and Reflections with several selections performed by concert pianist Jacek Zganiacz and the St. Jude Music Ministries with Reflections by Fr. Henry Hoffman.

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 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, x213.

THE CT CATHOLIC CONFERENCE AND FAMILY INSTITUTE OF CT are jointly sponsoring Advocacy for Life: Pro-Life Conference on **Sat., Nov. 2 from 9 am-3 pm** at St. Paul Catholic High School in Bristol. Contact the CT Catholic Conference at: ccc@ctcatholic.org or 860.524.7882.

MASS OF HEALING AND HOPE: the Charismatic Renewal Services announces a Mass of Healing and Hope: **Wed., Nov. 6, at 7 pm**, at St. Luke Parish in Westport, with Fr. Larry Carew. For more info, call the Charismatic Renewal Office: 203.456.5610.

NATIONAL PHILANTHROPY DAY is being held at the Trumbull Marriott on **Fri., Nov. 8 from 8 am-5 pm**. AFP invites you to celebrate philanthropy in Connecticut with an awards breakfast and educational conference featuring nonprofit leaders, keynote speakers, breakout sessions, networking and more. For tickets visit: www.afpfairfield.org/npd2019.

THE SONS OF ST. JOSEPH AT ST. THERESA CHURCH IN TRUMBULL is holding a Men's Night open to all men in the diocese on **Sat., Nov. 9**. The event will begin with Mass in church at **4:30 pm**, then beginning at **5:30 pm** dinner and talk. The evening concludes with Benediction & adoration in the church at **7:30 pm**. Men are encouraged to bring their sons age 16+. Cost of \$20 with reservation (\$25 at the door). Call rectory for prepaid reservation at 203.261.3676.

MAGNIFICAT'S FALL BREAKFAST "Five words to heal the family" will be held at the Ethan Allen Inn in Danbury on **Sat., Nov. 9 from**

9:30 am-noon featuring speaker Kathleen Keefe. Please reserve tickets by **Nov. 1**. Contact Fran Hood at 203.744.1856.

THE ARCHDIOCESAN WOMEN'S CONFERENCE is being held at Northwest Catholic High School in West Hartford on **Sat., Nov. 9 from 10 am-5 pm**. To register visit: oeec.typeform.com/to/CeoBjI.

CHRISTMAS FAIR—Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Bridgeport is having their annual Christmas Fair on **Sat., Nov. 9 from 9 am-4 pm**. The fair is free admission and features holiday crafts and vendors, raffle prizes, music and fun! Interested vendors should call Johanna at 203.372.3740.

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 now. For ticket pricing and details visit NCCharvesttable.givesmart.com.

A PULITZER PRIZE WINNING JOURNALIST AND AUTHOR—Paul Moses will deliver a talk on Mother Cabrini and her message on **Sun., Nov. 17**, following a Mass celebrated in Italian by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano at **10 am** at Sacred Heart Church in Stamford.

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: marcel-saintjean@gmail.com.

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.

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 for more information or to book.

CENSUS DAY—will be observed nationwide on **April 1, 2020**. By this date, every home will receive an invita-

tion to participate in the 2020 Government Census. Once the invitation arrives, each household should respond by phone, by mail, or online. More information about the upcoming census may be found at 2020census.gov/en.html.

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.



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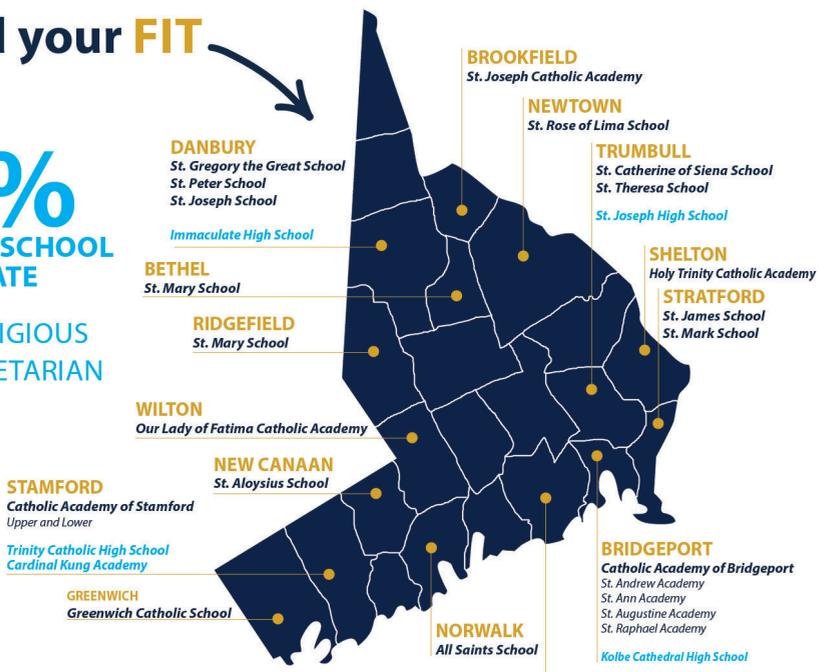
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