

THE MONTHLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT



FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC

FEBRUARY 2020 | VOLUME 37, NUMBER 2 | WINTER ISSUE

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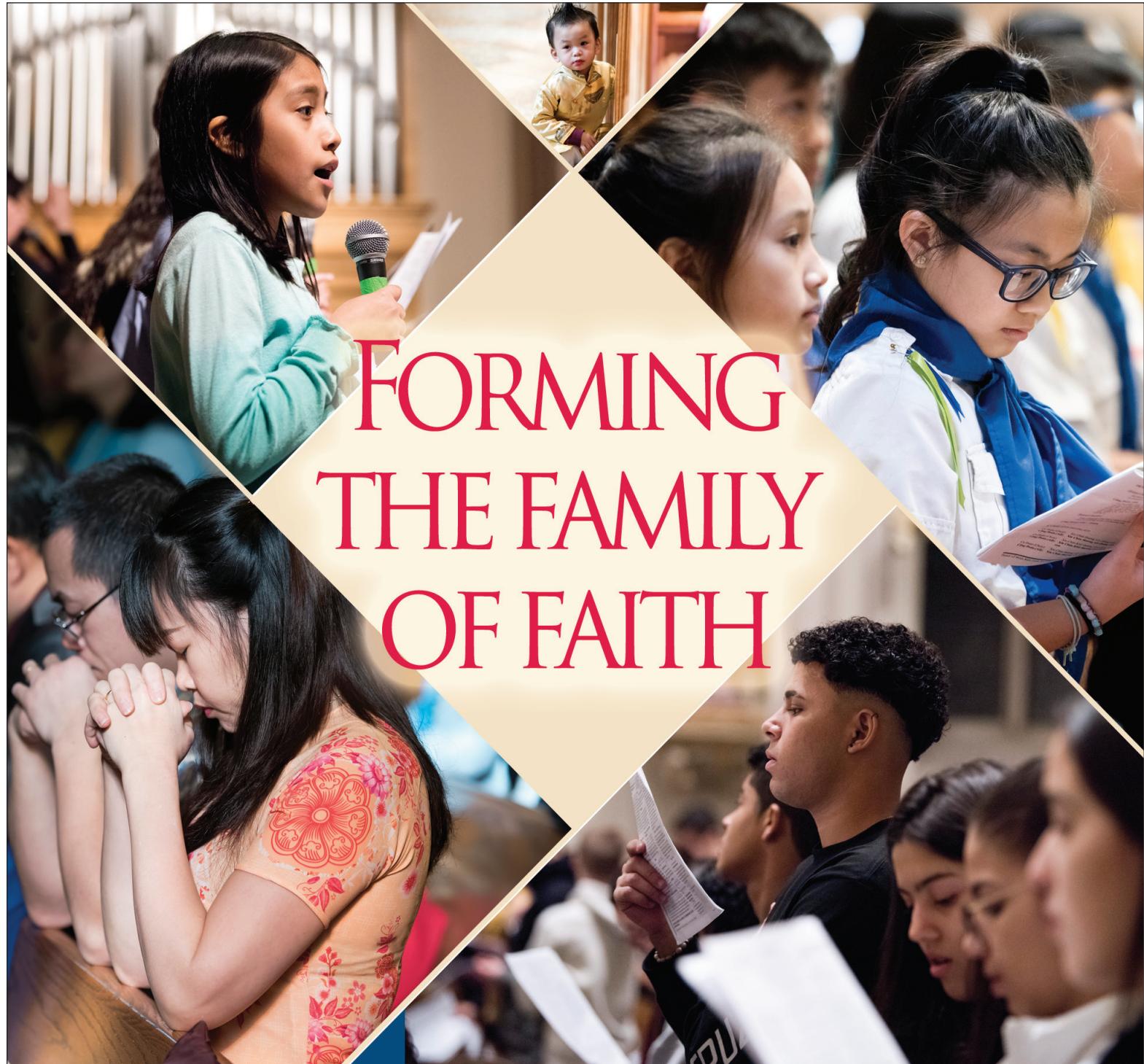
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*Observing Baptism
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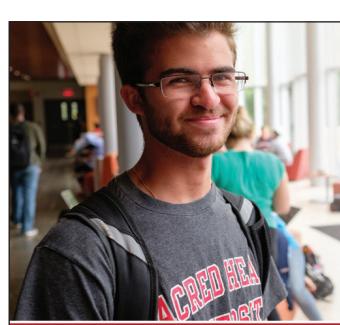
*Celebrating
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Around the Diocese



St. Gregory celebrates student baptisms

DANBURY—St. Gregory the Great School in Danbury left a lasting impression on students as three second-graders were baptized during the weekly school Mass on Friday, January 24. Marcos Zambrano, Jonathan Davis and Tiago Mendes, as well as Marcos' younger sister Mia, were all baptized in front of their family, friends and the entire St. Gregory the Great School community.

SHU dedicates two new residence halls

FAIRFIELD—The Sacred Heart University community recently celebrated the dedication of the new Pier Giorgio Frassati and Elie Wiesel residence halls, located on the University's Upper Quad. Administrators and alumni gathered for the dedication and blessing of these new residence halls in SHU's tradition of naming dorms after people who exemplify the University's mission. Guest speakers included Marisa Martire and Nadine Strossen.



Filipino community celebrates "Sinulog Festival"

WESTPORT—Filipino Catholics from Fairfield County, New York, New Jersey and beyond recently gathered at the Church of the Assumption in Westport to celebrate the Annual "Sinulog Festival" in honor of the Infant Jesus or Santo Niño. The Sinulog Festival is an annual cultural and religious festival held on the third Sunday of January and is the center of the Santo Niño Catholic celebrations in the Philippines.



Prep welcomes next president, Christian J. Cashman

FAIRFIELD—Fairfield University President Mark R. Nemec, Ph.D., announced that Christian J. Cashman, president and head of school at Northwest Catholic High School in West Hartford, Conn., will become the next president of Fairfield College Preparatory School, effective July 1, 2020. In this role, Cashman will also serve as a member of Fairfield University's Senior Leadership Team. "Mr. Cashman is a proven leader with a strong commitment to the excellence and the tradition which are hallmarks of a Jesuit, Catholic secondary education."



Immaculate High School's engineering club wins state title

DANBURY—In their second year as a competitive team, Immaculate High School's Brave Engineers Team has once again captured the Connecticut Real World Design Challenge championship title. Under the guidance of teacher advisor Jeanine Antonios and mentor Ruthanne Szumski from Pratt and Whitney Aircraft Engines, the Brave Engineers are now invited to compete in the RWDC National Competition on April 25 in Washington D.C.



Tyler Ugolyn Memorial Basketball Tournament and Sneaker Drive

WILTON—The 13th Annual Tyler Ugolyn Basketball Tournament was held Friday, January 24 through Friday, February 7 at Our Lady Of Fatima Catholic Academy in Wilton. This event honors the memory of Tyler Ugolyn, a Fatima graduate who perished in the 9/11 terrorist attack. This year's tournament included 43 teams across 6 divisions.

Knights of Columbus host annual free-throw competition

NEW CANAAN—Boys and girls between the ages of 9 and 14 competed in an annual free throw competition on Sunday, February 2 in the St. Aloysius School gymnasium. The competition was sponsored by the Rev. John H. Stapleton, #2287 Knights of Columbus Council as an athletic outlet for youth and to encourage the values of sportsmanship and healthy competition.



ON THE COVER

Members of the newly formed Holy Vietnamese Martyrs quasi-parish at the Cathedral Parish in Bridgeport and the Our Lady of Aparecida quasi-parish at St. Peter's in Danbury celebrate at recent liturgies in which Bishop Caggiano signed the formal decree recognizing them as faith communities. (Photos by Amy Mortensen)

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Latest News

Bishop Scholarship Fund applications open

By THERESA SCIALLO

BRIDGEPORT—Foundations in Education is pleased to announce that applications to the Bishop's Scholarship Fund open February 1, 2020!

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

In the 2019-2020 academic year, the Bishop's Scholarship Fund received more than 2,500 applications for tuition assistance and awarded 1,456 students Kindergarten through Grade 8

nearly \$2,800,000. Awards ranged from \$300-\$3,500 per student.

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

- 48% raised by single parents
- 57% qualify for free or reduced lunch
- average household adjusted gross income = \$52,470

"We encourage all families who need financial assistance to apply. Consideration may be given to families with multiple elementary school-aged children," remarked Foundations in Education Executive Director Holly Doherty-Lemoine.

Applicants apply online via



TUITION ASSISTANCE—In 2019, the Bishop Scholarship Fund provided tuition assistance to 1,456 students in the diocese.

the FACTS Grant and Aid application and complete all questions relative to the Bishop's Scholarship Fund. The deadline to

apply is March 15, 2020 for families with a child currently enrolled in K-8 at any of our diocesan schools and April 15, 2020 for

new families to our schools.

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

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

27th Annual White Mass

By ELIZABETH CLYONS

DANBURY—Father Peter Le Jacq, M.D. will be the featured speaker at the 27th Annual White Mass honoring health care professionals on Sunday, March 22, 9 am.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano will celebrate the annual Mass at St. Joseph Church in Danbury, which will be immediately followed by brunch at the Ethan Allen Inn in Danbury. The Mass is open to all healthcare workers and the general public.

Father Le Jacq's 25 minute talk will offer unusual Gospel passages which reveal how serving the sick can be lived as a vocation from the Lord Jesus.

During the White Mass, the bishop will present the Father Rufin Compassionate Care Award to one area healthcare professional and another to a healthcare volunteer. The recipients are traditionally drawn from the ranks of physicians, nurses, dentists, healthcare workers or healthcare volunteers in Fairfield County.

The Father Rufin Award is presented to those who exemplify compassionate and loving care for the sick. It is named after the late Father Rufin Kuveikis, a Capuchin Franciscan who served as chaplain at Norwalk Hospital for 18 years. He died in 2008 at age 86.



FATHER PETER LE JACQ

About Father Peter Le Jacq, M.D.

Peter Le Jacq, M.D. is a Maryknoll priest who was the special consultant to Pope John Paul II on AIDS in East Africa. He grew up in Manhasset, New York, where he attended Saint Mary's Elementary School and Saint Mary's High School.

He attended St. John's University in Queens and graduated from Cornell Medical School in 1980. He did his residency at Saint Vincent's Medical Center in New York City.

In 1980, Le Jacq became a Maryknoll Missionary and in 1987 was ordained a priest. He has diplomas in Tropical Medicine and International Health from the Royal College

of Physicians and Surgeons in England.

In 1987, he received his master's in Divinity from the Maryknoll Seminary. Since 1984, Le Jacq has worked in Tanzania. He worked in the Serengeti from 1984 to 1986 and then Bugando Medical Center in Mwanza, Tanzania from 1987-1997.

In 1990, Pope John Paul II made Father Le Jacq his Special Consultant on AIDS in East Africa. Father Le Jacq has also organized the Bugando Medical School in Tanzania through the non-profit organization known as the Touch Foundation. The Bugando University College of Health Sciences (BUCHS) is a school for Tanzanians interested in becoming health workers to better serve their community.

All healthcare workers and their guests are invited to attend the White Mass. The Mass is also open to the general public. Breakfast tickets are \$40 per person. (Table of 10, \$350. Benefactors: \$100 includes 2 brunch reservations and name listed in the program.) Register online at: www.bridgeportdiocese.org/2020whitemass.

(For further information contact the Special Events Office at: 203.416.1670 or email at: specialeventsfc@diobpt.org.) ■

Diocese exceeds USCCB Charter

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

BRIDGEPORT—A recent data collection audit of the Safe Environments Office of the Diocese of Bridgeport conducted by Stonebridge Business Partners of Rochester, New York, found that the Diocese of Bridgeport is compliant with all articles of The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People for the 2018-2019 audit period.

"Since 2003, the diocese has put policies and procedures in place which exceed Charter requirements," said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano in learning about the audit results. "I'm very grateful to Erin Neil and her staff, all those who serve as trainers, the members of the Victims/Survivors Group who guide us, and to the members who serve on the Sexual Misconduct Review Board to ensure Safe Environments and zero tolerance of abuse."

According to Erin Neil, diocesan director of Safe Environments, the most recent on-site audit of diocesan Safe Environments programs was conducted in October of 2018.

Neil said two types of audits are regularly conducted, onsite and data collection. Every three years an onsite audit involves members of the Stonebridge firm who travel to the Diocese of Bridgeport to conduct interviews with the bishop and everyone involved with Safe Environments administration as well as survivors of sexual abuse by priests from our diocese. The Diocese of Bridgeport utilizes the Think First & Stay Safe training for children and parents, NetSmartz for teens and VIRTUS for adults.

"We include Code of Conduct, reporting information and a background check during VIRTUS online registration so that pastors and principals can keep track locally," Neil said.

The next onsite audit in the Diocese of Bridgeport will take place in 2021 and will include onsite audits at schools and parishes to review their training and background check compliance. Within the next 18 months, representatives from the Office of Safe Environments will schedule onsite meetings with local coordinators to share best practices and give feedback in advance of their onsite audit.

(All Safe Environment policies are included in our Safe Environments Handbook and may be found on our Diocesan website at: www.bridgeportdiocese.org/safe-environments/safe-environments-handbook.) ■

ACA furthers Church's mission

The 2019 Annual Catholic Appeal, "Joy in Christ, Our Gift to Share," raised \$10,232,362 in outright gifts and pledges on a goal of \$9,750,000 thanks to the generous donors in the Diocese of Bridgeport.

"Thank you to our pastors, their staff and volunteers, who work tirelessly during the Appeal and special thanks to the pastors and parishioners of the second phase of the We Stand With Christ capital campaign for meeting and exceeding their capital campaign goal and 100 percent of their Annual Catholic Appeal goal. We are grateful for everyone's support," said Pamela S. Rittman CFRE, director of Development and the Annual Catholic Appeal.

The Appeal enables the Church in the Diocese of Bridgeport to continue its mission of renewal, helping youth develop their minds and grow in faith, feeding and counseling the homeless and hungry who live among us, sustaining our priests, providing Catholic education through scholarships and much more. (To learn more, visit www.bridgeport-diocese.org/aca/home.)

Jason and Roxanne Melaragno, the Chair Couple of the Renew 2020 Annual Catholic Appeal, believe a strong faith that lasts a lifetime begins at a young age—and for their son Justin, that is 3-years-old.

"With Justin, we make sure that we are incorporating prayer into his life—and not just when we go to church on Sunday, but when we have a meal and at bedtime—to show him it's part of life, a way of thinking, a way of being grateful for our blessings," Roxanne said. "We talk to him on his level about God. We really want to ignite the faith for him while he's young so that it becomes part of what he knows while he's growing up."

Faith formation was fundamental to Roxanne and Jason, who belong to Holy Family/St. Emery Church in Fairfield. They credit their parents with starting them on their journey of faith. Their example also inspired Jason and Roxanne to become active in the Annual Catholic Appeal, which raises funds to support the ministries

and programs of the Diocese of Bridgeport, including Catholic Charities, St. John Fisher Seminary and the Thomas Merton Center.

"The Annual Catholic Appeal gives donors an opportunity to exercise what it means to be Catholic and help those ministries on a local level that really support our Catholic beliefs," Jason says. "We have spent time at the seminary and the home for retired priests. These ministries are worthy in different ways. One with the seminarians and shaping the future leaders of the Church. Two, with Merton House and helping those who have fallen on hard times and in some cases are on the fringes of society. And three, with working to support those priests who have done so much for the diocese over the years."

"The generosity of those who participated in the 'We Stand With Christ' capital campaign, is already at work strengthening parishes and making it possible for the diocese to develop and sustain essential ministries and programs for generations to come," said Rittman.

"This year, we hope that you resume your participation in the Renew 2020 Annual Catholic Appeal so that we may remain steadfast in our mission to renew the world through God's love one person at a time," she said. "The capital campaign gifts support future and long-term needs, while the Appeal responds to the day-to-day, ongoing needs of the diocese."

Gifts to the Appeal, which has a \$9 million goal, support Catholic Charities' nutrition, housing and counseling programs by nourishing the hungry, sheltering the homeless and strengthening families and individuals, in addition to assisting other ministries and services.

"When people understand where their donation is going, they're more willing to give to the appeal," said Jason, who works as an account manager for the Pfizer pharmaceutical company.

"The ACA does good in so many ways," he added. "We have seen everything the Appeal helps, including care of the elderly, encouraging teenagers, who are the future of our faith, and Catholic Charities, which help people in need."

Roxanne hopes that more young couples and families become engaged in the mission of the Church. "One of the reasons we became involved was not only our belief in the importance of the ministries," she said, "but also because we feel that we're giving an example to other young couples."



JASON AND ROXANNE MELARAGNO

Individual Parish Results	Pledged	Goal	%
<i>The following parishes ran the 2019 ACA actively in their Parish outside of the Capital Campaign.</i>			
Saint Mary, Bethel	\$128,006	\$136,000	94%
Sacred Heart, Danbury	\$37,193	\$35,700	104%
Saint Peter, Danbury	\$133,870	\$120,000	112%
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Danbury	\$24,739	\$22,100	112%
The Parish of Holy Family and Saint Emery, Fairfield	\$77,667	\$91,000	85%
Saint Pius X, Fairfield	\$142,525	\$213,750	67%
St. Catherine of Siena and St. Agnes, Greenwich	\$246,371	\$255,000	97%
Saint Michael, Greenwich	\$227,780	\$297,500	77%
Saint Jude, Monroe	\$154,414	\$150,000	103%
Saint Aloysius, New Canaan	\$1,221,881	\$600,000	204%
Saint Rose of Lima, Newtown	\$205,695	\$199,750	103%
Saint Matthew, Norwalk	\$174,734	\$170,000	103%
Saint Patrick, Redding Ridge	\$51,828	\$51,000	102%
Saint Mary, Ridgefield	\$184,144	\$259,250	71%
Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, Shelton	\$45,695	\$43,350	105%
Saint Ladislaus, South Norwalk	\$20,264	\$16,000	127%
Saint Joseph, South Norwalk	\$29,425	\$55,000	54%
St. Cecilia-St. Gabriel, Stamford	\$141,557	\$162,000	87%
Basilica of Saint John the Evangelist, Stamford	\$95,110	\$93,500	102%
Holy Spirit, Stamford	\$95,893	\$90,100	106%
Assumption, Westport	\$131,661	\$165,750	79%
Unspecified—Funds not designated directly to a parish	\$252,410		
Grand Total	\$3,822,862	\$3,226,750	
<i>The following parishes met their 2019 ACA as part of the We Stand With Christ Capital Campaign.</i>			
Saint Ann, Bridgeport	\$45,000	100%	
Saint George, Bridgeport	\$17,000	100%	
The Cathedral Parish, Bridgeport	\$95,000	100%	
Shrine of Saint Margaret, Bridgeport	\$33,000	100%	
Saint Andrew, Bridgeport	\$75,000	100%	
Saint Peter, Bridgeport	\$45,000	100%	
Our Lady of Fatima, Bridgeport	\$30,000	100%	
Saints Cyril and Methodius Parish, Bridgeport	\$18,000	100%	
Saint Mary, Bridgeport	\$28,000	100%	
Saint Charles Borromeo, Bridgeport	\$30,000	100%	
Blessed Sacrament, Bridgeport	\$15,000	100%	
Saint Michael the Archangel, Bridgeport	\$45,000	100%	
Saint Joseph, Brookfield	\$130,000	100%	
Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys, Brookfield	\$73,000	100%	
Saint Gregory the Great, Danbury	\$100,000	100%	
Saint Joseph, Danbury	\$130,000	100%	
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Danbury	\$21,000	100%	
Saint John, Darien	\$250,000	100%	
Saint Thomas More, Darien	\$500,000	100%	
Saint Thomas the Apostle, East Norwalk	\$115,000	100%	
Notre Dame, Easton	\$115,000	100%	
Saint Anthony of Padua, Fairfield	\$140,000	100%	
Saint Thomas Aquinas, Fairfield	\$195,000	100%	
Our Lady of Assumption, Fairfield	\$150,000	100%	
Holy Cross, Fairfield	\$18,000	100%	
Sacred Heart, Georgetown	\$70,000	100%	
Sacred Heart, Greenwich	\$50,000	100%	
Saint Paul, Greenwich	\$116,000	100%	
Saint Mary, Greenwich	\$400,000	100%	
Saint Roch, Greenwich	\$55,000	100%	
Saint Edward, New Fairfield	\$200,000	100%	
Saint Jerome, Norwalk	\$85,000	100%	
Saint Philip, Norwalk	\$78,000	100%	
Saint Mary, Norwalk	\$107,500	100%	
Saint Elizabeth Seton, Ridgefield	\$105,000	100%	
Saint Joseph, Shelton	\$90,000	100%	
Saint Lawrence, Shelton	\$195,000	100%	
Holy Trinity Parish, Sherman	\$65,000	100%	
Saint Maurice, Stamford	\$60,000	100%	
Saint Mary, Stamford	\$45,000	100%	
Saint Benedict-Montserrat, Stamford	\$40,000	100%	
Saint Leo, Stamford	\$325,000	100%	
Sacred Heart, Stamford	\$45,000	100%	
Saint Clement, Stamford	\$53,000	100%	
Holy Name of Jesus, Stamford	\$42,000	100%	
Saint Bridget, Stamford	\$58,000	100%	
Our Lady Star of the Sea, Stamford	\$105,000	100%	
Saint James, Stratford	\$130,000	100%	
Saint Mark, Stratford	\$137,000	100%	
Our Lady of Peace, Stratford	\$65,000	100%	
Our Lady of Grace, Stratford	\$88,000	100%	
Holy Name of Jesus, Stratford	\$55,000	100%	
Saint Catherine of Siena, Trumbull	\$190,000	100%	
Saint Stephen, Trumbull	\$125,000	100%	
Saint Theresa, Trumbull	\$182,000	100%	
Christ the King, Trumbull	\$80,000	100%	
Saint Francis of Assisi, Weston	\$105,000	100%	
Saint Luke, Westport	\$225,000	100%	
Our Lady of Fatima, Wilton	\$225,000	100%	
Unspecified—Funds not designated directly to a parish	\$66,851		
Total	\$9,528,125		

A photograph of a woman with glasses holding a young child. They are both looking out of a window with blinds, with a bright light coming from outside. A large green circle overlaps the bottom left corner of the image.

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Parish News

Bishop forms parish for Vietnamese community

By JOE PISANI

BRIDGEPORT—Hundreds of faithful filled the pews at St. Augustine's Cathedral on Sunday as Bishop Frank J. Caggiano officially recognized the Vietnamese Catholic Community as a parish during a Mass celebrating the Vietnamese New Year.

The bishop signed the decree that formally established the Holy Vietnamese Martyrs Parish within the Cathedral Parish, 25 years after the first families came to Bridgeport and began to worship as a community.

Several hundred children and young people joined their parents and grandparents for the solemn and festive occasion. It was a time of prayer, celebration, thanksgiving and most importantly, a time to venerate their ancestors for the sacrifices they made.

"This New Year, I stand before you with great gratitude for your faith, your life, your enthusiasm, your generosity and your faith-

fulness in the diocese," Bishop Caggiano said. "For 25 years, your community has been a leaven of joy and faith here at the Cathedral Parish, as well as in the diocese, and I want to recognize that and thank you for your witness."

Canon Law allows the establishment of so-called "personal quasi-parishes" by "reason of the rite, language or nationality of the Christian faithful of some territory."

"As we begin this new year, I also want to invite you to start the next new chapter for our Vietnamese community," he said. "Today I would like to sign decrees into law creating the Vietnamese community as its own parish within the family of the Cathedral. It will allow us to plan your future together, to give you more of an opportunity so that we might grow ever bigger, meet the needs of our young people more effectively, and invite many others to come join us and know Jesus through the example that you and I will give."



HOLY VIETNAMESE MARTYRS—During Mass at St. Augustine Cathedral Bishop Frank J. Caggiano formally signs the decree establishing the Holy Vietnamese Martyrs as a quasi-parish within the Cathedral parish.

Bishop Frank entrusted the new parish to the Vietnamese martyrs, who include St. Jean-Theophane Venard, St. Andrew Dung-Lac and 115 others canonized by Pope John Paul II in 1988.

The bishop thanked Father Augustine Nguyen, the Episcopal Vicar for Vietnamese Catholics, for all that he has done, and he named Father Philip Lanh Phan, who is chaplain at Kolbe Cathedral High School, as administrator of the new parish to handle the day-to-day responsibilities.

Father Augustine, who was ordained in 2012, was the first Vietnamese priest in the diocese, so it was a particularly meaningful occasion for him. Shortly after he was ordained, he began to celebrate Mass at the Cathedral for the Vietnamese.

"This is great step for us," he said. "Our numbers are growing, and the community is very active." He will continue to serve as episcopal vicar, along with his duties as chaplain at Western Connecticut State University while in residence at St. Joseph Church in Danbury.

In his homily, Bishop Caggiano recalled the witness of the Vietnamese martyrs and wished blessings and graces on the Vietnamese faithful for their families and loved ones in the New Year.

"In these days, we remember the martyrs who gave their lives for Jesus—they gave their lives because they knew in their hearts how much Christ loved them, and they did not hesitate to give everything back to the one who gave love in return," Bishop Caggiano said. "We also remember our deceased, our parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, neighbors and

for all your support."

He asked for the community's support and said they would grow in faith together. Discussing his vision for the future, he later said, "Being assigned as head of the newly created Holy Vietnamese Martyrs Parish, I feel humbled and excited at the same time. The community has always been strong and vibrant in the past 25 years, but as it has now become an independent parish, I would like the community to be more involved with the general works of the diocese, such as charitable work at soup kitchens and visits to the home-bound elderly, regardless of ethnic background."

He also said he is committed to attracting more Vietnamese to the parish and growing the youth group by encouraging its involvement in liturgies and parish activities.

Vy "Vee" Nguyen, president of the local chapter of the Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Movement, said, "We're very excited today. The community has been here 25 years, and this is an important recognition."

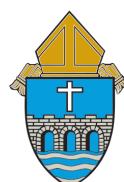
Vee, who was born in Vietnam, said the ministry's goal is to teach youths to be good Catholics and virtuous people and to recognize their cultural heritage. During the Mass, several hundred young people sat in the front pews, recognizable by the neckerchiefs they wore, which had an image of the Blessed Sacrament and a chalice.

Cindy Nguyen of Trumbull, who belongs to the Catholic mothers' prayer group, "Cac Ba Me Cong Giao," talked about the activities of her fellowship, which meets for prayer on the third Sunday of the month. She moved here from California in 1994 and has been part of the faith community since the early years.

"Yet Nguyen Dan" or simply "Tet" is the largest and most important festival of the Vietnamese culture. It means "the first morning of the first day" and the observance can continue for the entire week, although in America it is typically a one-day event.

As part of the celebration, eight couples were recognized for their wedding anniversaries, from ten to 55 years. They came forward and received a certificate of a

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 25



MOST REVEREND FRANK J. CAGGIANO, BISHOP OF BRIDGEPORT
CORDIALLY INVITES
ALL HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS AND ALL WHO SERVE THE SICK
TO THE

TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL WHITE MASS

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2020 AT 9:00 AM

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INDIVIDUALS: \$40 | BENEFACTORS: \$100 (INCLUDES 2 TICKETS WITH PROGRAMrecognition)
TABLES: \$350 (10 PER TABLE)

Parish News

Brazilian Quasi-Parish established in Danbury

By KATHY-ANN GOBIN

DANBURY—An historic and jubilant Mass officially celebrated the establishment of a Brazilian quasi-parish at St. Peter Church in Danbury.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano presided over the Mass last month and signed decrees formally establishing Our Lady of



Aparecida as a quasi-parish within the parish of St. Peter—the third oldest parish in the Diocese of Bridgeport. This historic declaration marks the first time Our Lady of Aparecida, a title of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is recognized with this distinction.

"I'm here, first and foremost, to thank you and to recognize your great presence in our diocese," Bishop Caggiano said. "I have come to recognize the Brazilian community as a parish within a parish."

"Your community will be formally dedicated to Our Lady of Aparecida. The official name in our diocese," adding that Father Leonel Medeiros, episcopal vicar for Brazilians, who has shepherded the community on this journey, will be pastor of the new quasi-parish.

A quasi-parish is created for the faithful that worship regularly at a parish and it recognizes the language or nationality of the Christian faithful in the area. The vibrant Brazilian community has grown in Danbury, worshipping at St. Peter on Sundays with a Brazilian Mass tailored to the community and culture.

Our Lady of Aparecida is widely venerated by Brazilian

Catholics, who consider her as the principal patroness of Brazil. Historical accounts state that the statue was originally found by three fishermen who miraculously caught many fish after invoking the Blessed Virgin Mary. A statue of Our Lady of Aparecida with a dark blue robe of richly embroidered cloth emblazoned with the flags of Brazil, adorned the altar during the Mass.

The bi-lingual Mass was punctuated by a lively music ministry. Exuberant gestures enhanced the meaning behind the heartfelt words and filled the church with joyous faces and voices raised in song.

Bishop Caggiano expressed his sincere understanding and support for the desire of the Brazilian community to celebrate their Catholicism while also recognizing and celebrating their culture.

"There is a temptation to leave behind culture but who you are and where you come from is a great gift," Bishop Caggiano said. "You are Brazilian, you are Catholic and you are here in the United States."

About 100 youths sat in the front of the church, having walked a few blocks from the nearby Brazilian Catholic Community Center on Liberty Street. Family, friends and the supportive St. Peter community also attended the Mass.

Prior to the Mass, commemorating the historic event, Bishop Caggiano spoke directly to the youth, "Keep faithful. Be courageous. Don't be afraid to be what your God wants you to be," adding that young people represent the future of the Church and there is more work to be done.

"It means a lot to me," said 17-year-old Victoria Lobo, echoing the sentiment of her 17-year-old friend, Giovanna Mastelari. "It's like a sense of community," Mastelari said. "We're grateful we are being seen by everyone else so we can open our church."

Both Bishop Caggiano and Father Leonel thanked St. Peter's pastor Father Gregg D. Mecca for his guidance and support of the Brazilian community's endeavors.

Father Leonel said he was

most grateful for everyone and their service to the church

"I am grateful to the parish of St. Peter's for without them hosting us it would be very difficult for us to establish ourselves as a community," he said. The Brazilian community celebrates a weekly Mass in Portuguese at the church on Sundays.

"It is a night to remember," Father Leonel said. "We pass on to many generations to come what it is to believe and profess our faith in Jesus Christ."

Bishop Caggiano encouraged the group to expand as necessary to meet the needs of the Brazilian community. He congratulated them for their desire and perseverance to do God's work in the community by not only being recognized by the diocese but continuing the spiritual work that



OUR LADY OF APARECIDA—with Father Leonel Medeiros, episcopal vicar for Brazilians by his side, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano signs the decree establishing Our Lady of Aparecida as a quasi-parish within the St. Peter's faith community. Father Medeiros will serve as the first pastor. "I have come to recognize the Brazilian community as a parish within a parish," the bishop said. "You have my affection and my support to continue to grow in faith, hope and love."

is necessary.

"Bring home everyone who has left us, who are worshipping at other churches. It is time for them to come home to worship with us."

"You have my love, my affection and my support to continue to grow in faith, hope and love."

The bishop's closing remarks were met with a standing ovation from the congregation as they joined Father Leonel who led the ecstatic congregation in a chant of "Viva Nossa Aparecida!" (Live Our Aparecida!) to which everyone enthusiastically responded "Viva!" ■



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CATHOLIC NETWORK

The Leadership Institute

Diocesan Ministry Day: something for everyone

By DR. PATRICK DONOVAN

What do catechists, liturgical ministers, parents and parish council members all have in common? Each of them will find something tailored to their ministry needs at this year's Diocesan Ministry Day.

This year's theme, From Encounter to Accompaniment, speaks to the challenge Pope Francis says we all face in our lives. Missionary discipleship, he says, begins with an encounter with the person of Jesus Christ. Once we have been introduced to our Lord, we want to learn more about him and, eventually, help others come to know him too.

The full day of formation, set for Saturday, March 7, 2020 at All Saints School in Norwalk, begins with registration at 8:30 am, followed by Mass, celebrated by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano. Following Mass and light hospitality, there will be three sets of workshops. The day will conclude with closing prayer at 4 pm.

"When we invited workshop presenters, we were careful to make sure we included speakers that would have broad appeal, yet be able to speak specifically to those in various ministries," said Patrick Donovan, director of The Leadership Institute, which is

sponsoring the event.

As an example, Donovan notes that Joe Paprocki, a well-known catechist and author with Loyola Press, will host three workshops that on the surface, look like they are designed only for catechists who teach in our parish religious education programs. "But look a little closer," Donovan adds, "and you will see that what he will be sharing is appropriate for Catholic school teachers and parents too."

Parish Council Track

Following Bishop Caggiano's decree last June that all parishes establish (or restore) a parish

pastoral council to help in the leadership of the parish, several parishes requested formation for parish council members.

To accomplish this, Donovan says, he has invited Rich Curran, founder of Parish Success Group, to host a track of workshops throughout the day for those who serve on parish councils. Curran, author of *We Lack for Nothing: Five Essentials to Grow Your Church*, has more than 30 years of experience in helping parishes improve communication, planning and strategic visioning. He will help those who serve on parish councils develop measurable outcomes, communication plans, and a better understanding of the important role councils can play in a parish.

Pastors who wish to attend with their parish council members are welcome to drop in and out as their schedule permits.

Pope Francis, Youth and Young Adults

Paul Jarzemowski, who staffs the Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth at the USCCB, and his wife, Sarah, Coordinator for College Campus and Young Adult Ministries for the Archdiocese of Baltimore will discuss the epidemic of loneliness that faces many young adults, how to bring young adults back to the Church, and Christus Vivit, Pope Francis' new framework for outreach to young people.

Brenner LeCompte, a youth minister from St. Mary in Ridgefield, will complement these discussions with a workshop of his own on how to children safe online and how to keep youth from leaving the Church in the first place.

Ela Milewska, executive director of the Department of Youth Faith Formation in the Archdiocese of New York, will offer her 30 plus years of experience in catechesis to those who wish to learn more about the role of Confirmation sponsors.

Estate and Funeral Planning

When the funeral norms were published in September 2019, The Leadership Institute launched a webpage with several resources for those who wanted to learn more about end of life issues, how to plan a funeral,

and even how to write words of remembrance. Now, in collaboration with Catholic Cemeteries, workshops will be offered in three specific areas:

Estate Planning. Emily Wilson, a 2014 Synod delegate and Norwalk attorney who works with seniors, will offer a workshop to help those who wish to learn more about how to plan their estate, write a will, establish an advance directive, and more.

Planning a Funeral. Sister Mary Ellen Genova, director of Pastoral Outreach at St. Rose of Lima in Newtown, will lend her expertise to those who wish to begin planning their own funeral or the funeral of a loved one. Sister's compassionate care and gentle way with families is well-known in the diocese.

The Benefits of Bereavement. A team from St. Thomas More in Darien will share their own experiences of work in this important area as an inspiration to others who hope to begin a bereavement ministry in their parish.

Special Musical Guest

To lead the music for the day, we will be joined by Tony Melendez. Tony will lead the music at Mass, offer a workshop in English and Spanish about the power of music, and then close the day in prayer.

A thalidomide baby, Tony was born without arms. He was brought to Los Angeles from Nicaragua at an early age to be fitted with prosthetic arms, which never quite fit. In time, Tony taught himself to play the guitar with his toes. He was propelled to stardom when he played for then Pope John Paul II in Los Angeles and the Holy Father, inspired by Tony's performance, leapt from the stage to embrace Tony and kiss his feet. Today, Tony travels the world singing and sharing his story of how God always gives you the gifts you need.

To Learn More

For a complete overview of the day, an explanation of workshops, and to register, please visit www.formationreimagined.org. The cost for the day is \$20 per person, which includes morning hospitality and lunch. Participants will choose workshops on the day of the event.



Image of the Road to Emmaus courtesy of Holdman Studios

DIOCESAN MINISTRY DAY 2020: FROM ENCOUNTER TO ACCOMPANIMENT

Saturday, March 7, 2020

8:30 am - 4:00pm

All Saint School • Norwalk, CT

The day begins with check-in/registration at 8:30 am. Bishop Caggiano will celebrate Mass at 9 am.

The rest of the day will be filled with a variety of workshops. Workshop presenters include clergy and women religious, speakers from around the country, and our musical guest, Tony Melendez! The day will conclude at 4 pm, and lunch will be provided!

Workshop topics will include:

- + A special track just for parish pastoral Council members
- + Estate planning
- + Funeral planning
- + Using technology in ministry
- + Engaging parents in catechesis
- + Making the shift to family catechesis
- + Christus Vivit
- + Ministry with children with special needs
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- Rich Curran
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- Sarah Jarzemowski
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- Maryann Knag
- Brenner LeCompte
- Fr. Tom Lynch
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February 2020

St. Cecilia-St. Gabriel

Parish celebrates anniversary of baptisms

By JOE PISANI

STAMFORD—Father John Connaughton assured his parishioners that “crying babies in church are music to a pastor’s ears”...so they blessed him with a symphony.

There was crying from one side of the church to the other on Sunday as the recently merged Parish of St. Cecilia-St. Gabriel observed the annual “Baptism Anniversary Celebration” with 40 children on the feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

Eighteen children who were baptized in 2019, along with 22 who marked the fifth anniversary of their baptism, came together with their families for the Mass and to renew baptismal vows during the annual celebration, which honors and encourages the parents and lets the parish pray together for them.

“It’s important for people to remember that the Church is their family, and this kind of event reminds them how important baptism is...and also how much we need a community to help us to get to know God,” Father Connaughton said.

In his homily, he talked about the challenges and wonders of parenthood, along with the spiritual development and opportunity for discipleship that it offers.

“There’s almost nothing that changes a person as much as



BAPTISM CREATES FAMILY IN CHRIST—Eighteen children who were baptized in 2019, along with 22 who marked the fifth anniversary of their Baptism came together with their families for the Mass to renew baptismal vows at the recent Baptismal Anniversary celebration held at the recently merged St. Cecilia-St. Gabriel Parish in Stamford.

becoming a parent does,” he said. “When that baby arrives, it comes with no instructions, and it’s up to the parents to take that baby home and keep it alive. Witnessing that among my sisters and my friends, it’s amazing to see how, before long, they’re able to do things like change diapers and wipe noses that they would have been completely repulsed by not long before.”

With parenthood comes countless teaching opportunities and occasions for growth, for child and mother and father, alike.

“If there’s something that people discover through the experience of having children, it’s that we have very little control over things in life, but giving themselves over to that lack of

control and having to figure things out has a remarkable effect,” Father said. “When people look back on their lives, they often marvel how much being a mom and dad has changed them. They are amazed at how different they have become from the totally self-absorbed and self-centered creature they had been; how hard it was to undergo the change, but also because they loved their child so much, it was kind of easy at the same time.”

A child coming into the life of a mother and father transforms them, just as the presence of the infant Jesus did to Mary and Joseph, particularly during the presentation in the Temple, when Simeon prophesied that Jesus would be “a sign that would be contradicted,” Father said.

And just as parents must commit to giving their “whole selves to the care of their child,” becoming a disciple of Christ requires giving your entire self to him without hesitation or reservation.

Gina Denner, who with her husband Charlie organized the event with a team of volunteers, has been involved with it since it began 11 years ago. “This is the most wonderful experience I have ever had in a ministry,” she said. “Our message to parents is to bring your children. We want them in church. We welcome them at St. Cecilia-St. Gabriel Parish.”

They are, she said, the future of the Catholic Church and should be a part of the faith community from the time of their baptism. While 18 infants attended the celebration, a total of 30

children were baptized last year in the parish.

The event began during Father Dave Riley’s tenure as pastor of St. Cecilia’s, Father Connaughton said, and “showed real pastoral insight on his part.”

“I think we’ve lost the sense of how important the sacrament of baptism is. It’s really the turning point in our lives with God and



each other,” Father Connaughton said. “When we pass through the waters of Baptism, we go from being a creature beloved by God but alienated from him by Original Sin to being his adopted children.”

Babies celebrating a 2019 bap-

tism were: Thomas Christopher DelVecchio, Enrico Anthony DeMatt, Isabella Marie Evanko, Michele Timothy Fanelli, Katherine Shea Forde, Luke Christopher Geller, Clara June Hoelderlin, Gabriel Robert Kornhaas, Robert Kelly Lynch, Warren Charles Maucere, Brigitta Lisa Nastasi, Hudson Alexander Noel, Edem Gabriel Obro,

Lily Florence Orbegoso, Sofia Maria Puggi, Annalise Joy Siemers, Henry William Smith and Joseph Jack Womack.

Children celebrating a 5-year anniversary were: Hailey Jane Albrecht, Adelina Maria Agiurgioaei-Boie, Grace Mackenzie Bridenbaker, Dante Charles Bruno, Matthew Colin DelMazzio, Luke Louis DelVecchio, Matteo Antonio Dudics, Anna Margaret Faugno, Madeleine Faith Fogarty, Valentina Giannone, Ryan Anthony Heigel, Callie Gwyneth Hoelderlin, Henley Sage Kursar, Samantha Jo Lewis, Emily Claire Mathias, Parker James Moore, Claudio Ninivaggi, Jesse Patrick Ortiz, Annie Kathleen Sansone, Mia Rose Torkamani, John Christopher Walsh, and Corrine Grace Whitbread.



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LENT 2020

Wednesday, February 26
Ashes will be distributed during Mass
8:00 am—English
6:45 pm—Portuguese

Stations of the Cross in Portuguese and English
Fridays on February 28, March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10
7:30 pm

Communal Penance Service
Monday, March 30
7:30 pm

EDITORIAL

Quasi-Parishes

The term "Quasi" Parish may sound confusing to some, but the formation of quasi-parishes by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano is actually a sign of the great vitality and diversity of the diocese (see stories on pages 6-7).

At the end of January, the bishop formally issued decrees establishing quasi-parishes for the Vietnamese and Brazilian communities—the Holy Vietnamese Martyrs quasi-parish within the Cathedral Parish in Bridgeport and Our Lady of Aparecida Brazilian Catholic community within St. Peter's in Danbury. He is also working with the Haitian community to form a quasi-parish in Stamford.

Canon Law allows for the establishment of personal, quasi-parishes by reason of the language or the nationality of the Christian faithful within a parish territory.

For many the quasi-parish recalls the "national" or "ethnic" parishes of the past—the German, Italian, Polish, Slovak and other parishes that spontaneously formed with waves of immigration as people worshipped in their own language and preserved their cultural traditions. In this sense, most quasi-parishes are found in mission churches of the mother parish and in new neighborhoods, but they're also formed out of unique faith communities that represent current realities in the Church.

The forming of quasi-parishes—along with the ongoing successful merger of older parishes in the diocese—is a response to the mandate of synod 2014, which challenged the local Church to create more vibrant and sustainable faith communities, engage youth, bring back Catholics who have left the Church and nourish all of the faithful. It also addresses demographic shifts and gives formal recognition to the strength of new faith communities that have formed in our midst.

From day one Bishop Caggiano has called for change and renewal within the diocese, and has stated his goal "is to strengthen the pastoral care of the People of God."

"For 25 years, your community has been a leaven of joy and faith here at the Cathedral Parish, as well as in the diocese, and I want to recognize that and thank you for your witness," the bishop said to the Vietnamese community, when he signed the formal decree establishing their own parish. His words are also true of the new Brazilian quasi-parish that renews the Church through its vitality and faithfulness. We offer our congratulations and prayers as they start new chapters of faith, service and worship in the life of diocese.

A Culture of Life

As our nation observed the Annual March for Life in Washington D.C. that seeks to end the legalization of abortion, many people of all ages in our diocese traveled to the nation's Capitol to participate in this year's march. Among them were seminarians, students from our schools and other young adults in college or the work force. Bishop Frank J. Caggiano also celebrated Mass at the Cathedral for those unable to attend the march. He also offered this reflection:

"In many ways, our modern society has welcomed what Saint John Paul II called "a culture of death" in our midst. Such a culture does not value the unique, unrepeatable and God-given value and dignity of every human person. On the contrary, the culture of death has commoditized human life, reducing it to something that is disposable in the womb and through the grave sin of abortion has led to the death of millions of unborn children. It measures human life in terms of money, resulting in the wanton neglect of the poor, elderly, sick and vulnerable in our midst. It has advocated the sin of euthanasia for those who are terminally ill in the mistaken belief that ending a human life is somehow an act of mercy. This culture has invaded almost every aspect of our society and its affects are devastating.

We know that God's grace can help a person understand and embrace the Culture of Life. For this reason, in addition to all the ways we must strive to advocate for human life, we must also pray to our Heavenly Father for the conversion of our society. Let us pray today that each of our fellow citizens will reject the culture of death and embrace the good news of life that comes to us by the use of our right reason and the revelation of the Gospel. For millions of lives are hanging in the balance."

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Knights donate to C4Y

SUPPORT FOR C4Y (Choir for Youth)—Late last month, Knights of Columbus, Council 185, at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Newtown donated \$2,500 to the Diocesan Youth choir. (In photo: Joe Rahtelli, State Advocate for the Knights of Columbus State Council, presented the check to Youth Choir Director Mary Bozzuti-Higgins of Wilton, and Bishop Frank J. Caggiano in his office at the Catholic Center. The gift will be used for new music, piano tuning and other expenses. The choir, formed by Bishop Caggiano performs at diocesan liturgies in special concerts throughout the year. Anyone interested in donating or joining the choir is invited to contact Mary Buzzuit-Higgins: C4Y@diobpt.org.



CLERGY APPOINTMENTS



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

PAROCHIAL ADMINISTRATOR

FATHER SEAN R. KULACZ, from Parochial Vicar, Saint Mary Parish, Ridgefield, to Parochial Administrator, Holy Family and Saint Emery Parish, Fairfield. Effective date was January 2.

ADMINISTRATOR

FATHER LEONEL S. MEDEIROS, to Administrator for Our Lady of Aparecida Brazilian Catholic Community. Effective date was January 26. Father Medeiros will remain Episcopal Vicar for Brazilian Catholics.

FATHER LANH T. X. PHAN, to Administrator for the Holy Vietnamese Martyrs Catholic Community. Effective date was January 26. Father Phan will remain Episcopal Chaplain to Kolbe Cathedral High School in Bridgeport.

PAROCHIAL VICAR

FATHER DIOUS JOSEPH, new to diocese from the Archdiocese of Tellicherry in India, to Parochial Vicar, Holy Family and Saint Emery Parish, Fairfield.

Effective date was January 2.

CHAPLAIN

FATHER RAYMOND M. SCHERBA, from Part-time Parochial Vicar, Saint Joseph Parish, Danbury, to Part-time Chaplain to Pope John Paul II Center for Health Care. Effective date was January 31. Father Scherba will remain Assistant Chaplain to Danbury Hospital and in residence at Saint Joseph Parish in Danbury.

MINISTER

MONSIGNOR WALTER C. ORLOWSKI, to Minister for Priests. Effective date was February 1. Monsignor Orlowski will remain Pastor of Saint Matthew Parish in Norwalk.

RETIREMENT

FATHER ANDREW M. WALTER, from permanently disabled, to retirement. Effective date was December 31, 2019.

RESIDENCE

FATHER PAUL RAJ SANKARALINGAM, from Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish, Norwalk, to Saint Francis of Assisi Parish,

Weston. Effective date was January 1. Father Sankaralingam will remain Chaplain for Norwalk Hospital.

MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE

MONSIGNOR THOMAS W. POWERS, returned from Medical Leave, to Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia. Effective date was January 2.

LEFT DIOCESE

FATHER TOMI THOMAS, IMS, from Parochial Vicar, Saint Matthew Parish, Norwalk, to Saint Amant, Diocese of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Effective date was January 14.

DIOCESAN BUILDING AND SACRED ARTS COMMISSION

FATHER PETER F. LENOX has been appointed liturgical advisor. Effective date was January 6.

FATHER JOSEPH A. MARCELLO has been appointed liturgical advisor. Effective date was January 6.

*Monsignor Thomas W. Powers
Vicar General
February, 2020*

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

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano

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Circulation

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

Annual Subscription Price

\$20 (within diocese)

\$50 (outside diocese)

Postmaster

send address changes to:

Fairfield County Catholic

238 Jewett Avenue

Bridgeport, Connecticut 06606-2892

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Editorial



Seeing the face of God in the comment section

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.

Having grown up in an increasingly digital world, I have been able to see how the use of social media has changed over the years and the effect that this has had on people of all ages.

We are more connected than ever—and that can be a really good thing. Family members who live far away can now see each other whenever they want and interact in a way that is much more personal. Pictures of exciting life events can be shared with those who may not have been

able to make it. You can instantly let your loved ones know that you are safe during a tragedy. Inspiring stories and heartfelt videos can unite us all in our humanity.

The downside of this digital age, though, is that we can seemingly never escape the negative. My coworkers and I see it every day in the comment sections of our pages. People who didn't have a voice before now have one, but most days the negative ones seem to be shouting the loudest.

It can be exhausting and dehu-

manizing in many ways.

I often wonder if, amongst all the information that we are constantly bombarded with, there can be a chance for us to just listen. Are our comments made out of love for others, or are they made in an effort to tear others down?

When it all boils down, I feel like we all have a lot more in common than we would care to imagine. Humanity has a common thread running through it—we all have a desire to belong, to feel loved, accepted and safe. I can't help but think that when we try to understand where someone is coming from in their opinion, we will find it comes from a heart not so different from our own.

My heart often feels heavy when I think of how divisive the climate of our world is today. It feels like we are held in this ten-

sion, just waiting for something to give.

James 1:19 says, "Know this, my dear brothers: everyone should be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath...."

Why are we so quick to tear

"When it all boils down, I feel like we all have a lot more in common than we would care to imagine."

others down? Does it make us feel better to make others feel less than?

Do the comments we make and the way that we live our lives lead others to Christ or do they sow seeds of division, hatred and bigotry?

Proverbs 6 outlines the seven things that are an abomination to the Lord, one of those being: "the one who sows discord among kindred."

The Bible adamantly warns against those who sow discord.

Those who turn people against each other, people who are meant to be united.

The digital world can often be a breeding ground for this hatred. But would it make a difference if we were able to look into the face of the other person when we were making a comment? So much anger is vented anonymously and irresponsibly. In a culture of blame and shame, we rush to judgment, or save our worst invective for those we don't agree with. Can we learn to look into their eyes and see the face of Christ?

When it comes down to it, how could we not?

Are the people we rage against not also made in His image and likeness?

How can we dispel this hatred and divisiveness so prevalent in our world today? I propose something simple—seeking the face of God reflected in everyone we come in contact with. It may not solve everything, but it can surely be a step in the right direction. ■



Call your parents, get to heaven

A DAD'S VIEW

By MATTHEW HENNESSEY

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

My dad and I speak by phone every week. He's been under the weather so we talk more these days than we have in the past. I get a lot out of our conversations.

We chat about sports, my job, the kids. He tells me about the book he's reading. We try to avoid politics. If it comes up we find a way to laugh at our differences of opinion. What else can you do?

Last week I was telling him about various household dramas. The usual stuff. Billy has been acting up in pre-K. Sally has been testing limits at home. Paddy's doing well at banjo but

he needs to find a sport to play. Magdalena's sensory issues are driving us batty. Clara recently changed high schools.

My dad listened quietly and said: "Little kids, little problems; big kids, big problems."

"Say what now?"

"My mother used to say that all the time," he said. "Little kids, little problems; big kids, big problems. It was one of her famous sayings. She had a million of them."

My father is 85. We lived in the same house for almost two decades. He raised me to manhood. Until last week I never once heard him say "little kids,

little problems; big kids, big problems." Nor was I aware that my grandmother had famous sayings.

"I'd be happy to hear some of these famous sayings," I said.

"I can't think of them right now," he said. "I'm sure they'll come to me. You can ask Aunt Claire. She knows them all." Aunt Claire is 90.

A lot of family information gets closeted away with the passage of time. Not intentionally, of course. It just happens. People are busy. Time flies. Who's remembering to think of famous sayings?

When you're a kid you don't much care to hear stories about the ancient people in the old framed photographs in the upstairs hall. When you're older you forget to ask. Then, before you know it, it's too late, and you spend the rest of your life walking around wishing you'd thought to say, "Mom, what was your grandfather like?"

A family is a contiguous thing, it runs together, generation to generation, a daisy chain of people, living and dead, the not yet born. We look the same. We

share traits. We laugh the same. Maybe we like the same flavor of ice cream.

Yet most of us have never met. I never knew my paternal grandmother, she of the famous sayings. I never met her husband, my grandfather, either. They both died before my parents were even married. Photos are few, and they don't reveal much.

Still, when my father tells me something like "little kids, little problems; big kids, big problems," I think maybe I have met them. Maybe I've known them all my life.

She's him. He's me. They are all of us—Billy, Sally, Paddy, Mags, and Clara, who even shares a name with her great-grandmother.

What a pity that the generations usually only press flesh with those just older and those just

"A lot of family information gets closeted away with the passage of time. Not intentionally, of course. It just happens. People are busy. Time flies. Who's remembering to think of famous sayings?"

spoke? What would you give to get to see how your children's children turned out as adults? I suppose that's what Heaven is.

"Yes," says my wife, one eye on Billy the Kid, current scourge of the St. Barnabas pre-K3s.

"And that's why we all want to get there together." ■

Veritas Radio

Bishop Caggiano show to start on network

By JOE PISANI

STAMFORD—Veritas Catholic Network today announced that Bishop Frank J. Caggiano will have a weekly radio show about the Catholic faith that will be broadcast throughout the Fairfield County listening area.

The hour-long program, titled, "Let Me Be Frank," will air on Wednesday at noon on WNLK-AM 1350 radio and be available later that day as a podcast at www.veritascatholic.com and the Diocese of Bridgeport website, www.bridgeportdiocese.org.

"This show will be historic because for the first time in the diocese, Bishop Caggiano will be speaking to everyone all at once," said Steve Lee, president and CEO of the Catholic radio network, which is an affiliate of EWTN. "We want people in our listening area to get to know the bishop better. Many have questions about what is going on in the diocese and the Vatican, and they don't know where to go for answers. Now, they have a place."

Bishop Caggiano's show, which will be pre-recorded, is the first local programming for Veritas and will be produced by John Grosso, director of digital media for the diocese, who said topics

will include faith, spirituality, morality, the liturgical year and diocesan activities and initiatives.

"This represents a true partnership between the Diocese of Bridgeport and Veritas," Grosso said. "We plan to make the topics accessible to all Catholics so they can connect with their faith and enter into a deeper relationship with Jesus and foster Catholic culture in a secular society."

Grosso, who works with the bishop on social media, offered an insight into his spiritual thought process.

He said, "Once I asked Bishop Frank, 'What are you going to talk about?' and he responded, 'I don't know...I haven't talked to the Holy Spirit yet.' Prayer and discernment are always a fundamental part of the process for him.

Bishop Caggiano, who is on the board of Veritas, has said, "The Lord can touch people in profound ways while they are sitting on the Merritt Parkway." He has called the Catholic radio station "a new frontier for our diocese."

The show, which will eventually be live and take call-ins, will begin before Lent and include updates on the diocese and the Church, spiritual reflection and a question-and-answer component.

"The bishop is a wonderful speaker and storyteller, and it's

great just to see where the conversation goes when you're with him," said Lee.

Veritas began broadcasting EWTN Catholic programming 24 hours a day last July throughout Fairfield County, the north shore of Long Island and parts of Westchester. Lee, a Ridgefield resident, purchased WNLK-AM 1350 radio and an FM translator at 103.9 MHz from Sacred Heart University and plans to expand local coverage of Catholic and community events.

"We have started broadcasting local advertising and have 60-second spiritual reflections from people in the diocese," he said. "Bishop Caggiano has three in the rotation. And we play one reflection an hour."

There are currently 380 EWTN affiliates in the United States. Lee believes the network, which reaches an estimated audience of almost 900,000 people, including 400,000 Catholics in the Bridgeport Diocese, can expand further into Westchester County and New York City and eventually throughout Connecticut.

His strategic plans include expanding the AM signal and launching the FM translator, which would put Veritas on the FM dial. Each project will cost



CATHOLIC RADIO—Steve Lee, president & CEO of Veritas Catholic Network (l) and John Mitchell, chairman, (right) are the driving forces behind the opening of Veritas Radio, the EWTN affiliate to the Diocese of Bridgeport. They recently announced that Bishop Frank J. Caggiano would join the program rotation with his new show, "Let Me Be Frank," which will begin airing this Spring.

an estimated \$25,000 to \$30,000, he said. The station's first pledge drive will begin in May.

Listeners can also live-stream through the veritascatholic.com website and an app that is being developed.

Bishop Caggiano's show will be the first local show, and Lee said he will be filling in more local programming throughout the week.

Lee said that Veritas will eventually have a presence at parish festivals, school fairs, sporting events and conferences at Catholic colleges and universities. Some morning drive-time shows he plans to produce will feature a rotating cast of clergy, parish and school news, and programs for young people and religious communities in the area.

The EWTN programming includes "Catholic Answers Live," "Called to Communion"

with Dr. David Anders, "Kresta in the Afternoon," "The Doctor Is In" with Dr. Ray Guarendi and "Christ Is the Answer" with Father John Riccardo. Veritas also simulcasts "The World Over" with Raymond Arroyo and classic programs featuring Mother Angelica and Father Benedict Groeschel.

"We need to reach people where they are, in their cars, in their homes, on their phones," Lee said. "We need to show them the beauty, truth and goodness of our faith, and that will have a downstream influence that will affect families, the culture and the Church."

Lee, who left his job in finance on Wall Street, says the past two years have presented him with trials and challenges...and rewards. He credits his wife Roula with providing him the spiritual and moral support the undertaking required.

Bishop promotes CRS' Lenten Rice Bowl

By ELIZABETH CLYONS

BRIDGEPORT—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, chairman of the board of directors for Catholic Relief Services invites all to participate in this year's Rice Bowl fundraising campaign, taking place over the course of the Lenten Season.

"I strongly encourage you and your parish community to participate actively in the Lenten CRS 'Rice Bowl' effort, says the bishop.

"This annual project enables us to observe the Lenten traditions of prayer, fasting and almsgiving," explains Father Michael A. Boccaccio, of our Diocesan Pontifical Mission Office and



CRS director. "Together we affirm our responsibility to help our global and faith families, especially in the developing world."

Catholic Relief Services is the USCCB agency that provides global humanitarian assistance to

those in need in two critical ways: by responding to man-made and natural disasters and providing direct assistance to those in need. Its mission seeks effective ways by which every human person can be assisted to realize his or

her full human integral development in an environment that is peaceful and sustainable.

The number of those who are impoverished and endangered is staggering. Many persons live in fear; Christians are being imprisoned, persecuted and killed. The needs of minimal sustenance, particularly water, are of paramount importance and invite us to help. CRS reaches out to our global family and our Christian brothers and sisters of both the Latin and Eastern Churches.

Parish leaders, educators, chaplains, et al. may order (free) whatever materials needed to provide for those they serve by calling 1.800.222.0025 or visiting: www.crsricebowl.org.

Resources include rice bowls and Lenten calendars for everyone in your community, resources for parishes, e.g., posters, lesson plans, reflections, videos, etc., for school/youth gatherings.

When Lent concludes, those participating in the Rice Bowl program are encouraged to mail a check to the order of the Diocese of Bridgeport (memo line to read CRS-RB) for monies collected to: Father Michael A. Boccaccio, CRS Office 238 Jewett Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06606-2892. Participants are also encouraged to inform Father Boccaccio if their community plans on participating, at: frboccaccio@diobpt.org.

Catholic Business Forum

'It's our responsibility to change the world'

By ELIZABETH CLYONS

FAIRFIELD—"As believers, we form a community, each of us a living brick held together by mortar that is divine, that is the Holy Spirit in our midst," said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano at the recent Catholic Business Forum Mass and Brunch held at Fairfield University.

The bishop addressed 200 business leaders and aspiring business leaders representative of the diocesan community and Catholic schools.

"Every human person is bound together in the community we form, made in the image and likeness of God," the bishop continued with his analogy of brick and mortar, explaining that "that community also has mortar, that which links us together in our common good, in our common will."

"We are living in a time when that mortar is beginning to fall apart," the bishop said. "You can see how our society is fragmenting, dividing, polarizing..."

"As we come here this morning as business leaders and aspiring business leaders, all of us believers, we have come here to recognize the fact that the mortar that should hold humanity together is not something but is Someone. It is He who has called us here, the one who has redeemed us, the one who gives us the power of His Spirit," said Bishop Caggiano.

He continued, "It is the one who has given us Good News to proclaim to the world. For whether the world knows it or not, it is Christ's life and teaching, His presence and Spirit that ultimately is the hidden ingredient that is meant to hold all God's children



CATHOLIC BUSINESS FORUM MASS AND BRUNCH—The young people from schools and parishes who attended the forum were given the opportunity to participate in the business mentoring program and learn more about the integration of Catholic Social Teaching and business principles.

together in peace, and prosperity and justice and righteousness."

"We come here as Catholic business leaders to head the great

challenge that Jesus tells us," the bishop said. "He says, 'you are the light of the world.'"

"And that means we are to

bring the light of truth to wherever the mortar that holds us together is fraying," the bishop explained. "To be able to proclaim that at the heart of what holds us together in our common humanity are the very principles of our social teaching as a faith—the dignity of the human person, the respect for community, the stewardship of God's creation... all of that that flows through the Good News of Jesus."

The bishop addressed the gathered, "My friends, we are to bring that truth into the world and we are not only to enlighten minds but we are to enlighten hearts."

Following the Mass, brunch was served in the Oak Room at Fairfield University, where attendees heard from guest speaker Robert A. Nalewajek, executive vice president of CAPP-USA and

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

COMING UP

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 26, 2020

7:00 AM – Prayer Service with Imposition of Ashes
8:30 AM – Mass with Imposition of Ashes
12:00 PM – Prayer Service with Imposition of Ashes
5:30 PM – Mass with Imposition of Ashes
7 – 8 PM – Confessions

EXPERIENCE GRACE.
SURRENDER TO LOVE.
LEAD JOYFULLY.

DURING LENT

Tuesday
Adult Study Series –
"The Mass" by
Bishop Robert Barron
7 PM
Community Room

Wednesday
Confessions
7 – 8 PM (Church)

Friday
Stations of the Cross
7 PM (Church)

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

HOLY THURSDAY

APRIL 9, 2020
Mass of the Lord's
Supper
7 PM
Visitation at the altar of
repose until 11 PM

GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 10, 2020
Morning Prayer
8:30 AM (Chapel)
Stations of the Cross
12:00 PM (Church)
Celebration of the
Lord's Passion
3 PM (Church)
Tenebrae
7 PM (Church)

HOLY SATURDAY

APRIL 11, 2020
Morning Prayer
8:30 AM (Chapel)
Blessing of Easter Food
10 AM (Chapel)
Confessions
2 PM – 4 PM (Church)
Easter Vigil
7:30 PM (Church)

MASS TIMES
Monday-Saturday
8:30 AM (Chapel)
Sunday
7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM,
12:00 PM (Church)

CONFESSON TIMES
Wednesday
7-8 PM (Church)
Saturday
4-5 PM (Church)

834 Brookside Drive
Fairfield, CT 06824
Parish Office 203.255.6134 www.st-pius.org

St. Pius X
Catholic Church



March for Life

2020 Theme: ‘Pro-life is Pro-woman’

By MICHELLE ONOFRIO

WASHINGTON D.C.—An estimated 500,000 people gathered in the nation's capital on Friday, January 24, for the 47th annual March for Life. The National March for Life is the largest annual human rights demonstration in the world and is held in close proximity to the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade: the Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion on demand in the United States. Ever since then, thousands have gathered annually in Washington, D.C., as well as other places around the country, to stand up for life: specifically, the right to life that begins in the womb.

The theme for this year's March for Life was "Life empowers: pro-life is pro-woman." The inspiration for this theme comes from the anniversary which we celebrate this year, namely the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment, which granted women the right to vote. The early suffragists were women who recognized the dignity of a child in the womb and deemed abortion the "ultimate exploitation of women." They believed that women's rights begin in the womb. Those who advocate for

the pro-life cause today share that same belief.

Speaking at the rally before the March commenced, Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of Susan B. Anthony List said, "We, like our civil rights friends and our sisters and activists before us, will use the tools of democracy to right even the worst wrongs that plague our society, and we will form a more perfect union through the power of the pro-life movement." Addressing the young people in attendance she said, "You are the reason that this movement has grown. Lasting power comes from the truth reflected in the hearts of the American people like you." Dannenfelser was among many speakers who acknowledged and commended the large population of high school and college students who came to the March and defend the right to life every day in their communities.

This year's March was also monumental because it was the first time a president of the United States addressed the attendees in person. President Donald J. Trump offered his remarks to all gathered, and also gave special recognition to the youth. He said "Young people are the heart of the March for



TWENTY-NINE IMMACULATE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS and their chaperones participated in the March for Life in Washington, D.C. Led by IHS Deacon Jeff Font, they peacefully protested the decision of Roe vs. Wade.

Life, and it's your generation that is making America the pro-family, pro-life nation."

The March attendees spanned a wide gamut of ages, from infants to elderly couples. The large crowd radiated with joy and enthusiasm. Despite the knowledge that, as of today, abortion is still legal in this country, participants marched out of hope that, one day, they will see this ruling overturned. The pro-life movement is fueled by this hope, as well as a love for the unborn and the women who are their mothers. There was no anger displayed

by the marchers, but rather an enthusiastic commitment to enact change in the name of life.

This was my fourth year attending the March for Life with my school's pro-life group. Each trip is inspiring in its own way, and this year demonstrated to me just how large and effective the pro-life movement is. Standing on the National Mall during the rally, I looked to my right and to my left and absorbed the magnitude of how many people had gathered for this event. I was comforted by the solidarity that I experienced, since I often feel

like I am in the minority because I am pro-life. Participating in the March inspired me to be courageous in being unashamedly pro-life because I know I have a strong, flourishing group of people to stand behind me.

As I was listening to the speakers during the rally, I was moved by the victorious optimism that they possessed. Two women, who are abortion survivors, shared their testimonies, saying how much they have come to recognize their lives as gifts from God and that, with His grace, they have been able to forgive their mothers. The gift of their lives has, in turn, become a gift for their family members, especially their own children. They witnessed to the beautiful reality that each life is created by God, willed into existence, and is given a purpose. This reminded me that the pro-life movement is filled with hope, healing, and compassion, not anger, bitterness, and resentment. In defending life, we defend God, the Author of Life.

(Michelle Onofrio is a student at St. Bonaventure University and president of the school's pro-life group, SBU for Life, with which she traveled to and participated in the March for Life.) ■

Praying for an End to Abortion:

One Word, One Action, One Attitude at a Time

By EMILY CLARK

BRIDGEPORT—"How can we change a culture? It's through the grace of the Holy Spirit that we will change the culture in which we find ourselves," said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano in opening his homily at the March for Life Mass on Thursday, January 23. That simple question, he said, is "precisely why we are here."

On the eve of the annual March for Life, scores of faithful from the Diocese of Bridgeport gathered at St. Augustine's Cathedral in Bridgeport to pray for an end to abortion and for blessings on the pilgrims traveling to the March in



MARCH FOR LIFE MASS at St. Augustine Cathedral, January 23, 2020

Washington, D.C. the following morning. This Mass gave those unable to attend the event at the capital the opportunity to unite with others in prayer and community to end what the bishop called a "culture of death."

Joined by members of the Knights of Columbus along with priests and deacons from the diocese, Bishop Caggiano celebrated the first ever March for Life Mass, sponsored by the Respect Life Office.

"We must pray for a culture of life," the bishop said. "Every life has value beyond measure. With every word we speak, every action we take, and every attitude we have, we will chip away at this culture. We must end this

scourge and sin of abortion."

To accomplish this shift, the bishop reminded the congregation to see reverence in all, from pregnant women considering abortion to immigrants and refugees seeking shelter for the sick, the handicapped, and all who suffer.

"There is dignity in every life," Bishop Caggiano said. "We must stand with life in all its forms, in solidarity and love. We must not let our attitudes betray our words. There is so much we can do."

After blessing the pilgrims on their journey to Washington, the bishop thanked them for bearing witness to our Catholic faith and being an example of those who desire justice and dignity.

Such a journey, said Maureen

Ciardiello of the Respect Life Office, is "inspiring, prayerful and joyful. Once people go, they are more motivated to help and join in. This is such an important issue, and we acknowledge it here in community."

In addition to the national March for Life in Washington, D.C., the Connecticut March for Life will take place at the State Capitol in Hartford on Wednesday, April 15. Bishop Caggiano encouraged attendance at this event as well, adding, "It is important to come out in numbers. Don't be discouraged. We can make that change. How? With one word, one action, and one attitude at a time." ■

40 Days for Life

Prayer, Fasting, Repentance

By DR. LENORE OPALAK

"Cultural transformation doesn't begin in Washington, Hollywood, or Wall Street, it begins with each one of us," observes the founder of 40 Days for Life, Shawn Carney. Could any of us doubt the need for cultural transformation at this time? For Catholics, "cultural transformation," proclaiming the Kingdom of God and the culture of life, is a dynamic of our faith. It is a dynamic that is sometimes neglected, and Lent providentially offers us the chance to reclaim and reinvigorate. The 40 Days for Life prayer vigil to bring an end to abortion coincides with Lent precisely for the conversion of hearts and minds, in obedience to God's request that we turn to him in humility, prayer, fasting, and repentance, in union with Christ. By praying publicly for an appreciation of the sanctity of life and an end to abortion, we bring God's message of mercy, grace and forgiveness to the world. It is clear from the overwhelmingly

positive responses to our vigils on Main Street in Bridgeport and Danbury, that praying openly in public touches a need in many people and is well appreciated. The occasional negative response is also a reminder that our prayers are effective.

The results of the national, and international 40 Days for Life efforts speak for themselves: to date, 16,742 babies saved from abortion, 196 abortion workers have quit and embraced Christ in their lives and 104 abortion centers have closed (including Summit in Bridgeport, after four years of prayer vigils at that site). Of note, the two founders of 40 Days for Life, Shawn Carney and David Bereit, originally Evangelical Protestants, have both converted to the Catholic faith as a result of their work devoted to the sanctity of life, and they are not the only ones within this movement of prayer and sacrifice who have experienced conversion.

A new 40 Days for Life campaign in Bridgeport was

first launched in Lent of 2019, after learning that an abortion facility had opened within the Commerce Park medical complex on upper Main Street. So far, the Bridgeport campaign has gathered Catholics from 14 area parishes and Protestants from two local churches, of all ages and backgrounds, to witness to God's gift of life, and pray the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet. Our prayer intentions request that God touch the hearts of those affected by abortion in any way, that He shower His mercy upon them and that He intervene to save the lives of unborn babies threatened by abortion. We do not know who among the cars entering Commerce Park might be considering abortion, but we do know that the sight of the image of Our Blessed Mother, (we display an image of Our Lady Of Guadalupe), the sight of people caring enough to stand outside to pray and the sight and sound of the Rosary, cannot fail to be effective.

The Danbury campaign has been going on for about five years, with participation from seven churches in the greater Danbury area, including nearby parts of Westchester county. The new leader, Chloe Hermann, fresh from Christendom College, is hopeful that there will be more participation this Lent, and especially that the pastors in Danbury will recognize the importance of this Pro-life prayer effort.

What does it take to participate in 40 Days for Life? First, let's dispel some myths: the 40 Days for Life prayer vigil is NOT political and it is not a protest. It is a positive and peaceful outreach for the salvation of souls.

All that is required is a simple willingness to exercise the basic theological virtues: faith in the power of prayer; hope in God's abundant mercy and love for the truth and for our neighbors. Praying on the street, however humbling, is not as frightening as some might think: we always pray in groups of two or more, and the prayer rallies, held twice per week in Bridgeport, bring out groups as large as thirty people. Most people stay for one hour at a time, some stay longer, some less; any amount of time in prayer is important. We are particularly

blessed by those pastors who have taken time in their busy schedules and stepped out of their comfort zones, to lead us in public prayer and grateful for the seminarians who have stopped by spontaneously to pray with us. The presence of priests at the prayer vigil is a great encouragement to the faithful, a sign that Christ is active in the world, and underscores the unity of Christ's shepherds with the flock.

Each of the troubled women who enter an abortion center in Bridgeport and Danbury and each of the babies they carry in their wombs is our neighbor; we demonstrate our love for each of these neighbors through this work of mercy in prayer. Participation in the 40 Days for Life prayer vigil is a simple act of obedience

to God's commandments, and as we know, "the greatest of these is Love" (1 Cor. 13:13).

Opening prayer rally for the Bridgeport 40 Days for Life will be at 3 pm on Ash Wednesday, February 26, at 4697 Main Street, Bridgeport.

(For more information about the 40 Days for Life this Lent, and to sign up, go to: www.40daysforlife.com or contact local coordinators: Chloe Hermann: 40DFLDanbury@gmail.com, or Lenore Opalak: snowdenopalak@icloud.com.) ■



DO YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW SUFFER FROM AN ABORTION EXPERIENCE?

COME BACK TO GOD WHO IS LOVE & MERCY

ENTERING CANAAN DAY OF PRAYER & HEALING

SATURDAY APRIL 25, 2020

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

FR. LUKE JOSEPH LEIGHTON, CFR

FOR INFORMATION & REGISTRATION

CONTACT

PROJECT RACHEL @ DIOBPT.ORG

203.416.1619



Wednesday, April 15, 2020

10:00 a.m. Pre-March Short Program Begins at the Bushnell

11:15 a.m. March begins at the Bushnell and ends at the State Capitol

12:00 p.m. Rally begins at the State Capitol

Visit CTMarchforLife.org for more info.

Local News

CATHOLIC BUSINESS FORUM FROM PAGE 13

past director of FCAPP-Vatican.

"It is our responsibility to change the world through Catholic Social Teaching," said Nalewajek of the purpose of CAPP (Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice).

Nalewajek explained, "Catholic social teaching is quite useful as a guide for living in and creating a civil society. It is first and foremost Christian teaching." Quoting Pope St. John Paul II, Nalewajek continued, "It proclaims God in His mystery of salvation in Christ to every human being and for that very reason reveals man to Himself."

"Catholic social teaching assumes we are inherently social, reflecting our Trinitarian God in whose image we are created," said the speaker.

"We are in possession of a gift...do we keep it hidden?" Nalewajek proposed a challenge to the gathered, "what's needed from us Catholics is faith, hope and ingenuity. Faith in our identity as Roman Catholics; hope in the Holy

Spirit; and ingenuity to engage, with resolve, the secular world."

"We must insist on a vibrant, publicly assertive, moral cultural order. We must demand a dialogue with society. A dialogue unashamedly based on Catholic social teaching," said Nalewajek.

The speaker addressed the high school students in attendance. "What do we need to do?" he asked of them. "It is our special task to order and throw light upon all the affairs of the world in line with the teachings of Jesus Christ—that is our unique and special mission."

Attendees were given the opportunity to participate in the mentoring program which is to continue post-event. At each table at the brunch was a place card, which interested attendees could fill out in order to participate.

The purpose of the forum was threefold: educational—the integration of Catholic social teaching and business, formative—Catholic

social teaching in action, and mentoring—students will be mentored by members of the CAPP community post-event.

Students were given pre-read material and were asked to come prepared with questions. Post-event, the facilitators from each school will work with CAPP to assign a mentor to their group.

Students will be encouraged to meet with their facilitator and mentor post-event to discuss potential projects that could be proposed based on what they have learned. If the facilitator believes a particular project has merit and would like to move forward with implementation, there may be an opportunity for the students to apply to Foundations in Faith for a grant up to \$5,000 to help fund their project.

The ultimate goal of the forum was for local business leaders and students to make materially present Catholic social teaching in action within the local community. ■

2020 JP II Fund grant applications

BRIDGEPORT—For the third year, parishes and churches throughout the Diocese of Bridgeport are invited to apply for funding that will innovate and re-energize religious education programs, youth ministry initiatives or other faith formation projects that target underserved groups.

Responding to Bishop Frank J. Caggiano's invitation to lifelong



FOUNDATIONS IN FAITH, INC.
SUPPORTING PASTORAL MINISTRIES

faith formation at every level by announcing the Saint John Paul II Fund for Religious Education and Youth Ministry, which offered grant opportunities to assist their efforts.

The grants were specifically designed to help diocesan parishes/organizations serve those populations they may not have been able to serve before and to fund significant changes in the very fabric of their outreach to the faithful in their parishes. They ranged from \$500 to \$10,000 in total. Proposals that sought widespread reform were preferred over smaller proposals. Requests in excess of \$5,000 were to be so innovative that they sought to change the very fabric of formation in a given parish.

All applications will be submitted online and are due by April 2, 2020. (Go to www.foundationsinfaith.org for grant information and the application link.) ■



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Project Beloved:

Life-affirming healthcare for women

By JOE PISANI

STAMFORD—For many years, Noelle Amann was a sidewalk counselor who stood outside the Planned Parenthood clinic in Stamford, trying to persuade women to choose life. Some were there for abortions, others health services, and as they entered, they were accompanied by escorts who kept them from engaging with pro-life advocates.

Noelle spent more than 1,000 hours working with her colleagues in a ministry called "Sidewalk Advocates for Life."

Today, she looks back and says, "In all those years of sidewalk counseling, I have only held three babies born of those women." While she acknowledges there is no way of knowing what choices the others made, her experience led her to believe that another approach is needed for the pro-life movement to succeed in a culture that trivializes life and promotes abortion.

"We started to realize that we needed an alternative—a life-affirming medical piece—that was aligned with Catholic teachings," she said. "If the pro-life movement wants to end abortion, we have to be in a preventative posture. The reason Planned Parenthood has been so successful, and has convinced women that abortion is good, is they are in the medical space. For many women, it's their first interaction with a medical provider, and they will return in a crisis situation."

To address this need, she and her husband Tom formed Project Beloved, which is a non-profit



A LIFE-AFFIRMING HEALTHCARE CENTER FOR WOMEN—Noelle and Tom Amann are the co-founders of Project Beloved, a non-profit, life-affirming preventive healthcare center for women. They are about to sign a lease on a Stamford location. "It's really a different approach to healthcare that keeps Christ at the center," says Noelle who will serve as president.

organization committed to affirming life, and after four years of planning, they are about to open the first healthcare center for women in the state.

Tom, a business development executive who will serve as executive director, said they are in the process of signing a lease for a location in Stamford and that several physicians have committed to the project, including Dr. Lenore Snowden Opalak, who has been named the medical director. She is board-certified in internal medicine and a natural family planning consultant.

Noelle, who is founder and president of Project Beloved, said the state-of-the-art healthcare center will specialize in "the highest

standards of gynecology, infertility, family and adolescent health through evidence-based, natural methods of care."

Their mission is nothing short of redefining women's healthcare.

"We want to break the cycle of harmful cultural influences on women and their families and provide a life-affirming medical alternative, currently unavailable to the majority of women," Noelle said. "Access to truly life-affirming, holistic women's healthcare can transform the way a woman views herself and influence her future for the better."

The center's primary focus will be on adolescents and women in their reproductive years and treating the health needs of "the whole human person."

Noelle said that her years of engaging women going to Planned Parenthood for abortions and health services led her to conclude that "women are suffering as a result of the current paradigm of women's healthcare, which supports an over-sexualized culture, prescribing artificial contraception and offering easy access to abortion."

The center will give pro-life organizations a place where they can refer women and their children for primary care. It will not refer for abortion or prescribe artificial contraception. Even though the center is non-denominational, it will adhere to the Ethical and

Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services issued by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Because Planned Parenthood provides medical services, women typically return for an abortion when contraception fails, she said. Her experience in the pro-life movement made her realize that it needed to develop a relationship with women before they seek an abortion.

"Our goal is to reach women before the crisis stage and give them life-affirming medical care that doesn't include artificial conception," Noelle said. "We have to establish this relationship so they come back to us when they are pregnant...and then it is never going to be a question of what they're going to do about it."

Tom said that while there are 30 to 40 similar centers across the nation, there is none in the Northeast. Project Beloved will be the first.

"We have been working with the others, and they have been coaching us and mentoring us through this process," he said. Some of them, such as Florida Guiding Star in Tampa and Bella

in Denver, have experienced phenomenal growth over the past five years and are expanding to accommodate more than 200 new patients a month. The Denver center even has a chapel, which women can visit to spend quiet time with the Lord, he said.

"It is really a different approach to healthcare that keeps Christ at the center," Noelle said. "The center will provide physical care as well as emotional and spiritual care. The women will have someone who will walk the journey with them."

While Project Beloved is a non-profit organization, its goal is financial sustainability. "We will accept insurance and self-pay and always offer a charitable component," Tom said. "It will be a financially sustainable organization that will never turn anyone away who wants this care."

"Our goal is to ultimately lead women to the love of Christ," Noelle said. "Christ is the divine healer and we're just instruments on this journey. For too long, he has been left out of healthcare."

(For more information about Project Beloved, visit www.projectbeloved.co) ■

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Anointing of the Sick
offered for Catholics who are
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of a serious nature



Mass Celebrated by
Most Rev. Frank J. Caggiano

QUESTIONS?

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Catholic Charities

Homeless Outreach Team ‘Point in Time’ count

By AMY ZAJAC

DANBURY—On January 21, 2020, the Catholic Charities of Fairfield County Homeless Outreach program served as the Regional Coordinator for the 2020 Point in Time Homeless Count (PIT). The Point in Time Count is a one-day non-duplicated count of sheltered and non-sheltered homeless individuals and families across the United States. This year, Catholic Charities was able to connect with over 40 sheltered and non-sheltered homeless individuals.

Along with volunteers from local community partners, including Danbury Hospital, CHD, the City of Danbury Police Department and New Milford Police Department, the Homeless Outreach Team was able to canvas the greater Danbury area and identify some of the most vulnerable people in the community. The team handed out coats, gloves, sweatshirts and blankets donated by Zumiez to those in need and shared information about the programs offered at Catholic Charities.

“Catholic Charities is proud to have been able to lead our region



in another Point in Time count with the help of our community partners. Point in Time counts have been valuable in helping our community plan services and programs that appropriately address local needs, measure progress in decreasing homelessness and identify strengths and gaps in the community's current homelessness assistance system. We look forward to participating in the Point in Time in 2021,” states Yeharar Stephen, director of Homeless Services at Catholic Charities.

Catholic Charities' Homeless Outreach Team is the only program in the greater Danbury area that meets with homeless

individuals where they are and provides services right there. Engaging with clients at the shelters, soup kitchens, on the streets, in the woods and under bridges; the Homeless Outreach Team effectively provides homeless individuals and families with access to benefits, food, clothing, medical, mental health, substance abuse and housing services. The Homeless Outreach Team assists over 120 homeless individuals

and families every year of all ages, gender, race and ethnicity. Members of the Homeless Outreach Team speak English and Spanish and have a wide frame of knowledge in areas such as mental illnesses, substance abuse, veteran services, family services and medical conditions.

(To learn more about the services that Catholic Charities provides to the homeless populations, visit [www.ccfairfield.org](http://ccfairfield.org).) ■

Family Support Group

By AMY ZAJAC

DANBURY—Catholic Charities is launching a new support group for people with mental health issues to run concurrently with its already running “Family Night” group in the Danbury area.

Begun in February, two groups are facilitating simultaneously, one for the individual impacted with mental health issues and the other for the members of their support system—family and friends. However, according to Charlie Coretto, director of the Catholic Charities Community Support Program (CSP), Catholic Charities recognizes that sometimes expanding services is necessary in order to meet the needs of the community.

“It was through a recent client focus group that the idea was suggested to have two support groups run simultaneously. We would continue the Family Night group geared toward loved ones and family

members and then begin to run a Client Family Night for clients themselves,” said Coretto, noting that it was important that the clients they serve were able to attend a peer group at the same time their loved ones attended their own Family Night group.

Catholic Charities offers a variety of mental health and counseling services throughout Fairfield County. With mental health counseling offices located in Norwalk and Danbury, the nonprofit social services agency is providing therapeutic services to those impacted by behavioral health issues and those in need of support during difficult periods of their life.

In addition to basic counseling, the agency is also providing case management services. The Catholic Charities Community Support Program (CSP), funded by the Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS), is contracted to provide skill building and life skill services to adults with psychiatric disabilities in the greater Danbury area. The program teaches, coach-

es and educates clients in the community about mental health and addiction issues.

Also located in Danbury, New Heights is a wellness and recovery center. The program which is member run and member driven, offers classes, groups and seminars that address every aspect of emotional and physical wellness. This holistic programming includes classes such as food and nutrition, mindfulness, anger management, walking and positive thinking. Community meetings are held daily, during which members and staff come together to discuss announcements, issues, ideas and concerns.

(For more information on the Community Support Program, New Heights or the new Family Support Group, please contact Charlie Coretto at 203.748.0848 ext. 226 or ccoretto@ccfc-ct.org. For more information on all of the mental health services provided by Catholic Charities, visit the agency website at www.ccfairfield.org) ■

POSITION AVAILABLE

Catholic Cemeteries Field Worker

Catholic Cemeteries - Diocese of Bridgeport

Responsibilities

The Catholic Cemeteries Field Worker participates with burials, as well as the installation of memorials and markers. Performs openings and closings for burials, entombments and inurnments. Directly performs grounds upkeep and facilities maintenance by mowing, cutting shrubbery, trimming trees, sweeping roads, blowing and picking up leaves and emptying and cleaning trash receptacles.

Qualifications

High School diploma or GED. Previous cemetery and/or landscaping experience, preferred. Ability to operate mechanical equipment including, but not limited to, a dump truck, tractor, utility vehicle, marker trailed, dump trailer, jack hammer, tamper and backhoe. Ability to operate hand-held tools and equipment, including, but not limited to a shovel, pick, rake, sledge hammer, lawn mower, weed trimmer, leaf blower, chain saw and pump. Heavy Work: Exerting 50-100 pounds occasionally, 25-50 pounds frequently, or from 10 up to 20 pounds constantly.

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For a full job description visit: www.bridgeportdiocese.org/human-resources/home
Contact Decelle Totten, Catholic Cemeteries Manager: dtotten@diobpt.org

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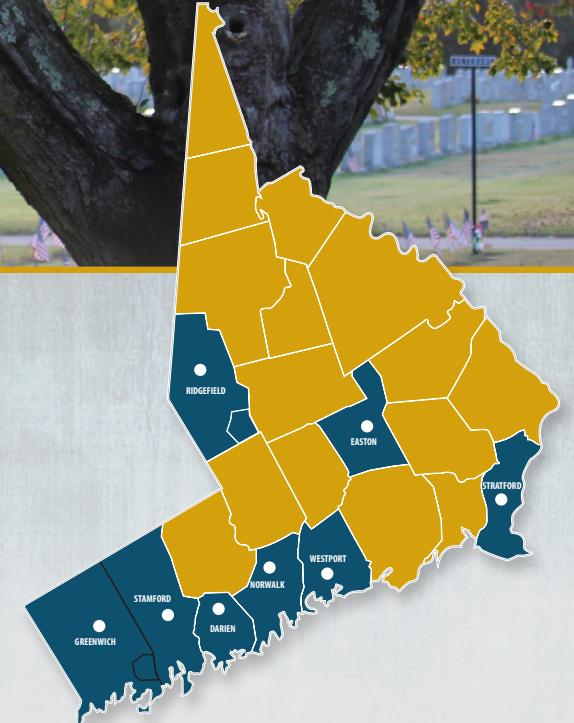
CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT



At the Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Bridgeport, we are committed to providing cemetery property for the sacred religious function of burial. We are also committed to preserving these resting places as a symbol of our Catholic belief. Some of our cemeteries offer community mausoleums for those who prefer above ground burial.

—Dean Gestal, Director of Catholic Cemeteries



CONVENIENT LOCATIONS

St. Michael Cemetery

Bridgeport/Stratford, CT | 203.378.0404

St. Peter Cemetery

Danbury, CT | 203.743.9626

St. John Cemetery

Darien, CT | 203.322.0455

St. Mary – Putnam Cemetery

Greenwich, CT | 203.869.4828

Resurrection Cemetery

Newtown, CT | 203.268.5574

St. John – St. Mary Cemetery

Norwalk, CT | 203.838.4271

Queen of Peace Cemetery

Stamford, CT | 203.322.0455

Gate of Heaven

Trumbull, CT | 203.268.5574

Assumption Green Farms Assumption Kings Highway

Westport, CT | 203.838.4271

PLANNING AND UNDERSTANDING THE CATHOLIC FUNERAL

Many people who attend a Catholic funeral for the first time will often remark how beautiful it is. Steeped in centuries-old custom and ritual as Catholic funeral rites are, that's understandable.

But the most important aspect about Catholic funerals is that they express the **Christian hope in eternal life and the resurrection of the body on the last day**. Every component of the Catholic funeral rites should express these fundamental beliefs and hopes. Our funeral rites are not "a celebration of life," as they are referred to sometimes, but a privileged opportunity to return to God the gift of the deceased, hoping to usher them into paradise with the aid of our prayers. Our love for the departed is expressed after death, above all else, in our prayer for them.

Refer to the online guide, which is meant to explain the Catholic funeral rites and give some guidance on the decisions that will need to be made — in light of Church teachings — at the time of a loved one's death. It might also be helpful in preparing some notes on our own funeral.

For more information: www.bridgeportdiocese.org/cemeteries

Diocese of Bridgeport | Catholic Cemeteries



For more information contact:

Joseph McCurdy, *Catholic Cemeteries Manager*
Administrative Office at the Catholic Center
238 Jewett Avenue, Bridgeport, Connecticut 06606
email Joe.Mccurdy@diobpt.org
phone **203.610.3414**



Foundations in Faith

First-Ever Youth in Action Grant Recipients

By MEG McCAFFREY

BRIDGEPORT—How can we encourage young people to deepen their Catholic faith and become more involved in the Church? One way is to give teens the space and resources they need to bring their dreams to life. And that's exactly what Foundations in Faith is doing thanks to a new innovative grant program.

In an effort to revitalize how young people experience their Catholic faith, Foundations in Faith has awarded its inaugural Youth in Action grants to two youth-created projects, an innovative radio show featuring faith-filled, teen-oriented content and a much-needed food pantry.

Known as "by youth-for youth" grants, the new grant program flips the script to let young people innovate and show adults new ways of approaching one's faith journey.

An initial grant of \$2,500 was awarded to Cardinal Kung Academy in Stamford for the development of "Tune in to your

Faith," which will launch on the Veritas Catholic Network. An initial grant of \$2,500 was awarded to a high school-aged youth group at Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Bridgeport to open a food pantry for the greater community.

"Nothing like these grants has ever been offered," said Kelly Weldon, director of Foundations in Faith, which is committed to supporting and transforming pas-

cere to showcase how they envision new approaches to changing the fabric of Faith Formation for teens," Weldon added.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano is committed to not just listening and hearing from Catholic youth, but also learning from their creative thinking. Last September when he announced the new grant opportunity, he asked young people to incorporate col-



toral ministries in the Diocese of Bridgeport.

"This is a very exciting opportunity for Catholic high school students and the many high school youth groups in the dio-

laboration, evangelization and mission work into their ideas.

"We need to listen to their voices and give them the space and resources to design programs and projects that will resonate with them," the bishop emphasized.

The two funded projects will be spearheaded by teenagers, while adult mentors will offer guidance and help. The grant awards are up to \$5,000. Both recipients received initial funding of \$2,500, and will provide Foundations in Faith with a project update and Year-to-Date budget in June. If all is proceeding as expected, they will receive the second half of their grant.

Grace and Ava Lannigan, students at Cardinal Kung Academy, proposed "Tune in to your Faith," which will involve the efforts of students, faculty, staff, laity and clergy. Program content will aim to reach Generation Z, those born between 1994 and 2009. The thinking behind the idea is that one of the most critical issues facing the Catholic Church is keeping young people involved in the Church.

Grace Lannigan, 16, noted that there is a plethora of media outlets designed to reach the Catholic community, but most are focused on adults. "There are very few geared towards younger Catholics," she said. "Tune in to



YOUTH IN ACTION GRANTS—Two youth-created projects in the diocese are the first to receive Youth in Action Grants from Foundations in Faith. Students at Cardinal Kung Academy in Stamford are inviting people to "Tune in to your Faith" on a program they created for Veritas Radio, and young people from Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Bridgeport will open a food pantry to serve the community.

'your Faith' is a wonderful platform that gives us the opportunity to connect Catholic kids and teens across the diocese."

Their goal is to produce content that speaks to the teen audience by giving teens access to discussions that are relatable to them and then showing how faith helps in dealing with issues. "I am hopeful that hearing from young people like us will invigorate other kids to explore their Catholic faith," Grace added. "The radio is a very great way to reach a large audience and to begin exploring the ways Veritas radio can help us amplify our efforts."

It becomes easier to energize teens on a platform that is more relatable such as the radio, Ava Lannigan, 14, pointed out.

"We need to pull teens into the Church in as many ways as possible in order to create a strong future for the Church," said Ava Lannigan. "It would only take a few teens to spread the word to get many involved. Once it does, I believe it will skyrocket."

The radio program is just one element of what organizers hope to offer teens.

"We are in the process of exploring multiple avenues to reach teens via the radio: a live show, downloadable content and hosting guest speakers," said Karen Lannigan, project leader, suggesting, for example, users will be able to download inspiring talks and engage via social media platforms. "We would like to establish ambassador type roles for teens to attend existing diocesan events at schools and parishes that would let them know what we are doing and show how they can get involved."

So far, approximately ten teens, ages fifteen to nineteen, and numerous adult mentors

are anticipated to be involved in the operation of the Our Lady of Fatima Food Pantry, which will be located in the parish hall in the lower level of the church. Initially, it will be open the first Sunday of each month from 1-3 pm beginning in late February or early March.

"In the future, we hope to expand it to twice a month and grow to include seasonal clothing, diapers, and toiletries," said Melissa Oliveira, youth group leader.

Several youth group members said the food pantry will energize young people in the Bridgeport parish, because it'll give them a voice and empower them to share their faith. "It'll show other youths that you can reach people through God and help them in a simple way," one teen said.

The teens were especially delighted to hear of the grant news because opening a food pantry has been a dream of Father Rogerio Perri, parochial administrator.

Organizers said the food pantry will have a high social media presence and combine the efforts of different groups within the parish. It is also intended to increase the sense of community with the local Portuguese people who are parishioners.

The goal is for the pantry to "open the doors of communication" and help the community grow through Christ and spread his love.

"The purpose of this project is to bring together the older and younger generations with the common goal of helping the community," said Oliveira.

(For more information on Foundations in Faith and the pastoral care ministries and grants, please visit www.foundationsinfaith.org or email kelly.weldon@foundationsinfaith.org)

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44 Main St. | Danbury, CT

For more information and to sign up for vigil hours visit <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/danbury/>

Foundations in Education

Leadership Grants to Catholic Educators

By THERESA SCIALLO

BRIDGEPORT—“Tonight we celebrate the gift of Catholic education and the opportunity it allows for innovation, leadership and transformation,” reflected Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, as he lead a prayer for the Catholic school educators recently awarded 2020 grants in innovation and leadership.

“Together, we celebrate our common mission and purpose: to help form our young people, to allow for their great potential, their gifts and talents, their wonder and imagination,” Caggiano continued, “our teachers who minister and serve our children and young people help them to unlock the secrets of the world so that they may have a future that is bright.”

Foundations in Education is pleased to announce 26 grant awards totaling \$137,500 to bene-



SUPPORTING TEACHER CREATIVITY—Twenty-six Catholic school teachers in the diocese were awarded Leadership Grants recently to fund a wide variety of classroom projects. The ceremony was held at the Discovery Museum on Park Avenue in Bridgeport.

fit Catholic schools in the Diocese of Bridgeport. Now in its 3rd year, this competitive program was the first of its kind to offer innovation and leadership grants to teachers and administrators.

The grant program promotes excellence in Catholic education by supporting a teacher’s creative project and professional development. Grants funded through this

program are intended for transformative initiatives that benefit multiple grade levels and have a long-term impact on student learning.

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

them and their students.”

Educators submitted grant proposals from September 15 – October 31, 2019.

This year, Foundations received forty grant proposals from nineteen of the twenty-six diocesan-sponsored Catholic schools in Fairfield County. The grant requests totaled nearly \$300,000, more than double the

available funding.

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

An awards ceremony took place on Thursday, January 30 at the Discovery Museum in Bridgeport where grant honorees shared their creative vision with Foundations’ board of trustees, grant committee members and donors.

The event was sponsored by Milestone C, a Connecticut based education company whose mission is to shape future STEM leaders. Co-founder and COO David Conelias commented, “Foundations in Education and Milestone C are like-minded

► *CONTINUED ON PAGE 24*



YOUNG ADULTS IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

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A conference designed to generate and share strategies and best practices for engaging and empowering young adults.

KEYNOTE

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For registration info and more about the conference,
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www.sacredheart.edu/youngadults



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UNIVERSITY

Obituaries

Monsignor Thaddeus F. Malanowski, 97

NE CANAAN—Monsignor Thaddeus F. Malanowski died on Thursday, January 23, at Waveny Care Center in New Canaan.

Named after the famous Polish General and American patriot Thaddeus Kosciuszko, Msgr. Thaddeus Malanowski was a retired Brigadier General in the United States Army and native son of Stamford's Holy Name of Jesus Parish.

He celebrated the 70th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on May 28, 2017 at Holy Name of Jesus Church.

Monsignor was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Hartford on May 15, 1947 and was incardinated into the Diocese of Norwich when it was established in 1953. His remarkable priestly life found him globe-trotting as a Brigadier General visiting troops on every continent and as a missionary.

Monsignor Malinowski dedicated his life to serving others and along the way he met popes, presidents and celebrities.

He began serving as Assistant Post Chaplain at Fort Benning,



MONSIGNOR THADDEUS F. MALANOWSKI

Georgia and in 1956, was assigned to the 3rd Armored Division at Fort Knox, where the young priest first met the young "king," Elvis Presley. Their Combat Command "C" division was soon sent overseas, where Father Malanowski and Elvis would get to know each other.

Father Malanowski stayed with Elvis's unit until 1960, when he returned stateside to attend Company grade courses for Chaplains at Ft. Slocum, New York. After that he studied at the U.S. Army War College and later

graduate from the Command and General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. His advanced training led to many overseas assignments and promotion until 1973, when he returned to USAREUR and Seventh Army Headquarters as Deputy Chaplains and Chaplain Delegate to Terence Cardinal Cooke. His "rank" within the Church was also elevated that year, when Pope Paul VI appointed him a Prelate of Honor with the title of Monsignor.

On January 22, 1974, he was nominated by President Richard Nixon to be the new Deputy Chief of Army Chaplains with the rank of Brigadier General. His promotion ceremonies took place in Heidelberg, Germany and were conducted by General Michael S. Davison, Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army.

Born in Stamford on November 30, 1922, he was one of 14 children, Msgr. Malanowski lived at the Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of the Clergy Residence in Stamford from April 2009 until shortly before his death. ■

FUNERAL GUIDE

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Ilene Ianniello, 78

TRUMBULL—Ilene F. Ianniello, age 78, of Trumbull, beloved wife of Deacon Daniel J. Ianniello, passed away peacefully Sunday, January 26, 2020 holding the hand of her beloved husband of 58 years.

She is fondly remembered by many throughout the diocese as an out-going, energetic woman who was always ready and willing to help those in need.

In 2017, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano presented her with the St. Augustine Medal of Service Award for her efforts on behalf of the students of St. Raphael Academy in Bridgeport, where she led a fund raising effort to build a new playground. She was a devoted volunteer for St. Raphael's School, Operation Hope and Pivot Ministries and a founding president of the Deacon's Wives Ministries that supports many ministries including providing the opportunity for inner-city children to travel to New York City to see a Broadway Play.

Born in the Bronx, N.Y., the daughter of the late Lincoln Wiseman and Gertrude Morse, she had been an area resident for the last 59 years. Ilene received her bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Bridgeport and worked for many years passionately helping non-profits, legal offices, churches and private businesses with their bookkeeping and business needs.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Fairfield. She was interred in Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Trumbull.

Contributions in Ilene's memory may be made to St. Raphael's School, 324 Frank Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604 or to the Deacon's Wives Ministries, c/o 39 South Benson Road, Fairfield, CT 06824. ■



ILENE F. IANNIELLO

DECEASED CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT FEBRUARY 16—MARCH 21

FEBRUARY

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

MARCH

1	Rev. Leonard M. Conlon	1976
	Deacon Timothy Sullivan	2015
5	Msgr. John J. Pitonak	1990
8	Rev. Martin J. Nikodem	2018
	Rev. Boleslaus Rarus	2005
10	Rev. Raymond H. Stephenson	1990
12	Rev. Martin Hitchcock	2014
	Rev. Leo Suwinski	2005
13	Deacon Joseph L. Cross	2003
14	Rev. Vincent P. Cleary	1989
15	Msgr. Francis J. Sugrue	1977
	Msgr. Edward G. Zibell	1978
	Rev. William J. Galya	1994
16	Rev. Emeric Szlezak, OFM	2019
17	Rev. Daniel F. Golden	1955
	Msgr. John F. Murcko	1975
	Msgr. Francis X. McGuire	1993
18	Msgr. Donald M. Paolucci	1990
	Rev. John Fay	2006
19	Rev. Bartholomew J. O'Shea	1959
	Msgr. Francis A. Campagnone	2003

February 2020

Sports

'Doc' Gibbons could operate on the court, too

By DON HARRISON

FAIRFIELD—For most of his adult years on God's green earth, he was known as "Doc" Gibbons. After attending Yale Medical School and earning his degree from the Medical College of Pennsylvania, he practiced for decades in New Jersey, New York and his native Pennsylvania. A deeply religious man, Gibbons also made medical mission trips to provide care in Guatemala, Nigeria, Ghana and elsewhere.

However, longtime followers of Fairfield University basketball remember the man as Wayne Gibbons, a fleet guard with multiple skills. Across three varsity seasons (1967-70), he averaged 13.2 points per game and was a major contributor to the Stags' rise to national prominence.

Wayne Leroy "Doc" Gibbons, M.D., 70, died peacefully at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital on July 24, 2019, leaving behind Ahtoi, his wife of 40 years; four children and four grandchildren, as well as a glowing reputation as a physician who would serve the needs of the sick even if they were unable to pay.

"I have two indelible memories of Wayne Gibbons," says James Fitzpatrick, assistant vice president of auxiliary services at Fairfield U., a Gibbons classmate and friend, who served as a student manager of the Stags' basketball team during their time together on campus.

"As a sophomore, he hit a shot from the deep corner just before the buzzer to give the Stags a 63-62 victory over Villanova in the Palestra. It was one of the great moments in Fairfield basketball, an electric moment," Fitzpatrick recalls. "Here he was, a Philadelphia kid, and he beat one of Philly's Big 5 at their place, and yet he was so blasé about it."

The social justice side of Gibbons is evident in Fitzpatrick's other remembrance. "For the 1970 class gift, Wayne was instrumental in establishing our scholarship for multicultural students," he says. "It morphed into current-day scholarship programs that benefit numerous undergraduate students in need. Wayne was a visionary on and off the court."

Gibbons and Frank Magaletta, a 6-foot-3 forward with an excellent shooting touch, were among the last of the student athletes recruited by George Bisacca, the late coach and athletic director, the man revered as the "Father of Fairfield Basketball." In the space of a decade, Bisacca transformed a lowly small-college program into a Division-I team capable of defeating the likes of Boston College, Villanova, Holy Cross, Georgetown, St. Joseph's, St. Bonaventure, Fordham, Duquesne and other notables.

As sophomores in 1967-68, Gibbons and Magaletta blended in nicely with four seniors, Billy Jones, 6-8 Art Kenney, Larry Cirina and the late Sol Crenshaw, and Fairfield produced its fourth straight winning season (16-10) at the D-I level.

Even today, more than a half century later, that remains the most challenging schedule in Stags history. Consider: They faced the nation's No. 1 (Houston), No. 3 (St. Bonaventure) and No. 6 (Dayton)

teams that winter, and competed against no fewer than four All-Americans, Houston's 6-9 Elvin Hayes, the Bonnies' 6-11 Bob Lanier, Dayton's Don May and Niagara's Calvin Murphy.

Fairfield's 88-85 verdict over Niagara and Murphy was achieved before a sellout crowd of more than 5,500 at the old New Haven Arena and a statewide television audience. The Purple Eagles' 5-9 sophomore was limited to 28 points—10 under his per-game average—while the unpredictable Cirina rose to the challenge and netted a career-high 33.

The Stags lost to Houston (108-76) and Dayton (95-70) on the road, but in the season finale against undefeated St. Bonaventure in the Arena, they put forth a spirited effort before falling short in overtime, 70-69, in what would be Bisacca's coda.

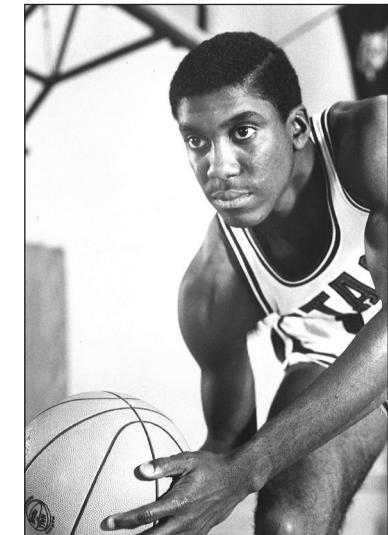
That spring, Jim Lynam replaced Bisacca as coach, and Magaletta and Gibbons became his go-to players the next two seasons. As a junior, Wayne accept-

ed more of the ball-handling responsibilities and averaged 13.4 points. In late December, he set a Fairfield single-game record by sinking all 15 of his free throws (finishing with 25 points) in an 85-64 verdict over Vermont in Burlington.

As a senior, the Gibbons scoring average soared to 17.5, and in Game 2 of the 1969-70 season, he scored a career-high 36 points in a 65-64 loss to Connecticut. The game, played at the UConn Field House, was the first meeting between the state rivals.

Fast forward to 2015. On the afternoon of February 15, Fairfield commemorated its rich basketball history with a halftime ceremony at Webster Bank Arena during which basketball members of the university's Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame—men and women—were introduced.

Gibbons appeared startled when his name was called, but he trotted out to midcourt where he joined the likes of Joe DeSantis, George Groom, John Ryan, Bob Jenkins and other former stars.



WAYNE GIBBONS WAS a fleet guard who sparked Fairfield U. to several noteworthy victories during his three-year career.

Why the look of surprise? Well, although he scored 1,016 career points and was a first-rate player for three varsity seasons, he has yet to be elected to the school's hall of fame.

"I'm amazed he's not in there," Fitzpatrick says.

Deacon Frank Chiappetta, 84

NORWALK—Deacon Frank Chiappetta passed away at the age of 84, on Friday January 17, 2020 in Spring Hill, Florida.

He was known to many in the diocese for his ministry as Deacon at St. Philip Parish in Norwalk and for his leadership of New Covenant House of Hospitality in Stamford from 1992 to 2001.

Deacon Chiappetta worked for years as a corporate industrial designer before being ordained, and was also a talented icon artist.

In 1981, he was ordained a permanent deacon of the Diocese of Bridgeport by Bishop Walter W. Curtis. In 1992, Deacon Chiappetta completed work on a master's in counseling at Iona College.

On the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of New Covenant House, Deacon Chiappetta said that his experience at the soup kitchen changed his life and



DEACON FRANK CHIAPPETTA

his notion of the poor. "I learned to see people in a different way. The gospel tells us the poor will always be with us, and some people will never be able to take care of themselves. But what interests me is how many of the poor can do better with a little help," Deacon Chiappetta said.

Deacon Frank J. Chiappetta entered into eternal rest on January 17, 2020 at Oak Hills

Hospital in Brooksville, Florida.

Frank was born in Greenwich, Conn on February 10, 1935, to Alice Gaipa and Joseph Chiappetta. Frank attended Stamford Public Schools and graduated from Stamford High School in 1952. He attended Pratt Institute in Brooklyn for two years before being drafted for service in the Korean Conflict. He served in the 6th Infantry regiment in Berlin as a cartographer.

Upon returning in 1956, he enrolled in the University of Bridgeport, School of Engineering, earning a bachelor's degree in Industrial Design.

After his ordination to the Permanent Diaconate of the Diocese of Bridgeport in 1981, he left corporate life and became executive director of the New Covenant House of Hospitality in Stamford. During his tenure there, he also graduated from Iona College, with a master's degree in Family Counseling.

Deacon Frank served the parish of St. Philip, in Norwalk, for over twenty years. He retired to Weeki Wachee, Florida, and served as Deacon at St. Frances Cabrini, in Spring Hill, Florida. In retirement, Frank continued using his God-given talent as an artist and began painting religious icons. His greatest pride in this medium, is the icon of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, which hangs in the chapel of St. Philip Church.

Frank is survived by his wife of sixty two years, Doris Cernier. Their two children, Joseph (Nicole), of Stamford, and Paula Sideri, of Lawrence, Mass., five grandchildren, Domenic (Katie), Marco (Emily), Stephen Jr., Angela, and Thomas, as well as three great-granddaughters, Evelyn, Piper, and Robin. Frank is also survived by his brothers Robert Chiappetta of Danbury and John Chiappetta (Margarita) of Dunellon, Fla., as well as several nieces and nephews.

Column: Thomas Hicks



Difficult Questions

POTPOURRI

By THOMAS H. HICKS

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

Many people are apparently untroubled by difficult questions regarding the meaning, value and direction of their lives. Most of us seem to go about our daily routines untroubled by the basic questions of life. But sometimes those questions break through, and here are some answers I've heard.

"Does anything matter, except making love and sleeping and eating and being flattered."

George Jean Nathan, a modern hedonist, has expressed his philosophy of life as follows: "The best that man can strive for and pray for is momentary happiness during life, repeated as frequently as the cards allow. To

me pleasure and my own personal happiness—only infrequently collaboration with others—are all I deem worth a hoot."

Today, many people talk about realizing their "full potential."

Here are some ideas about the meaning of life from some prominent literary people.

Tolstoy: "The more intelligent we are, the less do we understand the meaning of life and the more do we see a kind of bad joke in our suffering and death."

John Paul Sartre: "All existing things are born for no reason, and die by accident...It is meaningless that we are born, it is meaningless that we die."

In Sigmund Freud's percep-

tion, life is a struggle that simply ends in the complete defeat by death.

There is Camus' image of Sisyphus condemned forever in the pointless pushing of that rock. Camus said that life is absurd, but human authenticity consists in living as if it were not.

The alleged meaninglessness of life is dramatically captured by Beckett's characters waiting, waiting endlessly for the never appearing of Godot.

To be fair, I can recognize the genuineness of some non-religious versions of fulness and flourishing.

For myself, as Joan Baez sings: "every day that passes I'm sure about a little less." But I do accept the Christian conviction that we are not accidental bubbles upon the great cosmic deep, destined to burst and be forgotten.

There are three principal ideas of human perfection. In antiquity the Barbarians made perfection consist principally in fortitude. The majority of Greek philosophers thought that perfection consisted in wisdom. Christianity teaches that perfection is especially found in charity; in transcending ourselves and living a life of self-giving.

Catholicism affirms that there is more to life than meets the eye. The longer I live, the more I have an awareness of something beyond and beneath the every-

day; something especially hinted at in the daily flickers of loving moments. Indeed, I think there is an unseen reality behind everything.

St. Paul, preaching to the Greeks in Athens, said that God created us "so that we might seek God, and find Him: (Acts 17:27)

I think we live in a time where more and more people are asking "is this all there is?" No matter how happy our lives, a certain restlessness never goes away, the nagging restlessness that there must be something more than our day-to-day existence. A man I knew was assigned the job of working to establish a new marketing strategy for a new line of adult diapers. This marked the beginning of his search to find a greater meaning in his life.

There is the abiding discontent, a longing for the "more," a kind of dissatisfaction, a kind of loneliness. For the theologian, Karl Rahner, to be human is to be an immense longing. Chesterton said "even at home, I am homesick." Even the atheist, Sigmund Freud, when 66 years old, spoke of a "strange longing," and began thinking there might be perhaps "life of quite another kind." Again, there was the sense that there is something missing.

Throughout his life and writings, John Updike expressed intimations of an absence at the core of things. He clearly suggests it is a sign of the longing of the

human heart for God. Updike wrote that people "yearn for some religion or spiritual association that they are more than a fleck of dust condemned to know they are a fleck of dust."

The Catholic mystics answer the question about the meaning of life in terms of some kind of union with God. Life is somehow connected with sanctity.

Thus, our faith tells us that the meaning of life is larger than self-aggrandizement. What exactly is it we're supposed to be doing here? It has to do with the radiant word "Mercy"—"be merciful as your heavenly Father is merciful" (Luke 6:36).

A couple of final thoughts: I think there is danger in embracing the world's value system, for she is a mother who often eats her young. And finally, I see the Cross everywhere. ■

LEADERSHIP GRANTS FROM PAGE 21

organizations; supporting one another is the first step to securing the future of a young generation. The Milestone C team is ecstatic to help support Catholic schools in Fairfield County to remain at the cutting edge of academics and leadership development."

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

"These grants will help to make education fun, exciting and innovative for so many students. We are so thankful to Foundations in Education for all it does for the schools," shared Nancy DiBuono, St. Joseph High School principal.

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

(To learn more about Foundations in Education or to learn how your gift can help transform the lives of Catholic school students, please visit the Foundations in Education website at: ion.org.) ■

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Catholic Cemeteries Administrative Assistant

Catholic Cemeteries - Diocese of Bridgeport

Responsibilities

Help to direct the overall day-to-day administrative operations including verifying issues prior to internment and making arrangements for committal services, scheduling all burial times, maintaining all property accounts, time and leave records.

Serve as a back-up to Counselors as needed.

Perform all responsibilities in a ministerial capacity, with demonstrated compassion, empathy and understanding for those grieving.

Qualifications

Excellent communications skills by phone and in person and the ability to maintain a high level of discretion and handle details of confidential nature. 1-3 years related administrative experience.

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For a full job description visit: www.bridgeportdiocese.org/human-resources/home
Please send cover letter and resume to:

Decelle Totten, Catholic Cemeteries Manager: dtotten@diobpt.org

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*For married couples celebrating 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 and 50+ year
wedding anniversaries*

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2020 3:00PM

ST. THERESA PARISH IN TRUMBULL

MAIN CELEBRANT: BISHOP FRANK CAGGIANO

As a special gift to those celebrating anniversaries, the Mass will be immediately followed by a free concert by the Diocesan Youth Choir.

- Photos with Bishop Caggiano will take start at 2:15pm before Mass begins. Every couple that participates will receive a complimentary photo and certificate sent via US Mail to their parish for distribution.

- A reception will follow the concert for all couples, their families, and choir members.

To register to attend, please contact your local parish or visit:

www.bridgeportdiocese.org/JubileeMass

Space is limited; please register before April 16th

For questions, please contact SpecialEventsOfc@diobpt.org or (203) 416-1670



Column: Joe Pisani



SWIMMING UPSTREAM

BY JOE PISANI

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

Years ago, I learned an important lesson about life at my summer job, where I worked the night shift on a factory assembly line that manufactured 50-gallon steel drums.

My first week on the job, a fellow union member pulled me aside and told me a secret about our coworker.

VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY FROM PAGE 6

papal blessing. Bishop Caggiano also blessed them and was photographed with their families. After the Mass, there were festivities and a luncheon in the gymnasium of Kolbe Cathedral High School.

Father Augustine said the parishioners come from throughout the state and as far away as New York.

"Every week we come together and attendance is from 300 to 400 people," he said.

There are two Masses, on Friday at 7 pm and Sunday at 2:30 pm. The parish's ministries include Vietnamese language programs for children and a youth group that meets before Mass. Half of the members of the community are young people, he said.

The parish is assisted by five Vietnamese Sisters, who belong to the Lovers of the Holy Cross religious congregation, founded in Vietnam in 1670. The Sisters oversee the choir, language programs and preparation for the sacraments. In addition, there is an active RCIA program, and every Easter Vigil several catechumens enter the faith.

Many changes have occurred in the 25 years since the first families began worshipping in Bridgeport. Back then, priests would come from as far away as Springfield and Boston to celebrate Mass once a month and later once a week.

"This is our next great step," Father Augustine said.

Friends in very high places

when I was a boss, I even exercised my bossy—or should it be "bossy"—executive privileges to help my friends or their kids who were looking for an internship or a chance to see the world of journalism up close. (I hasten to add, they were all qualified candidates and that the people who managed them made the final decision.)

However, I never had the power of, say, Michael Bloomberg or Donald Trump, who with a snap of the fingers could get jobs as campaign workers for their daughters' entire yoga class. Yes, it's good to have friends in high places.

I thought of that phenomenon again recently, when I was at a funeral Mass, and the priest gave a homily about the Gospel story of Lazarus. In John's account, Martha rushes to Jesus to tell him that her brother has died. Jesus goes to the tomb and raises his friend from the dead. Father explained that Jesus will do the same for us someday and then added, "Jesus takes care of his friends."

The phrase struck me. It's good to be friends with the REAL Big Boss, and it's good to have friends in high places...and you can't get any higher than Jesus, seated on his celestial throne at the right hand of the Father.

Jesus takes care of his friends, and what are we, if not Jesus' friends? To quote him, "You are my friends if you do what I command you."

You see, so often we think of our relationship with Jesus in purely corporate terms. We'll get the raise if we perform up to expectations and do well on our evaluations. We'll get the promotion if the boss likes us, so we spend a lot of time trying to make him like us, appreciate us, reward us...but that kind of behavior is symptomatic of a meritocracy...not a relationship with Jesus, who isn't a typical CEO.

He loves us even when we don't live up to expectations, when we drop the ball, when we are predictably less than perfect. Even then, he still takes care of his friends.

Sooner or later, all of us face challenges and tragedies that are part of the human condition, and it's easy to fall into the deception that Jesus has forgotten us or is punishing us. Entire generations grew up under the misconception that when something goes wrong in life, God is punishing them. Others get angry with God because they think a commitment to Christ means life will be immune from suffering. It's easy to become angry and resentful when we look at God that way.

He takes care of us, but that care doesn't shield us from suffering. He is there in our suffering, and our best resource. It is often during those times that we can find the best evidence that Jesus takes care of his friends. If we turn to him for help, he'll walk beside us in our grief, in our pain and in our despair.

Only after our lives have ended will we fully understand the countless occasions when our friend Jesus stood beside us...and cared for us. It's one of the benefits of being friends with the Big Boss. ■

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Nuestra Voz

Becas del Obispo para estudiar en escuelas católicas

POR MARICARMEN GODOY

STAMFORD—Se encuentran abiertas las aplicaciones para participar en el programa de becas del Obispo 2020-2021 (Bishop Scholarship Fund) con el propósito de ayudar a las familias a pagar la educación católica de los niños que residen en el Condado de Fairfield. Aplicaciones que estarán disponibles para los alumnos que están en el sistema escolar hasta el 15 de marzo de 2020 y para los alumnos nuevos el 15 de abril del 2020.

Acorde con la Diócesis, el 39 de por ciento de los niños que estudian en las escuelas católicas del condado de Fairfield son de ascendencia hispana, seguido por un 30 por ciento de niños caucásicos, un 19 por ciento de niños afro-americanos y el otro por ciento de otros grupos étnicos. En el año académico 2019-2020, la BSF otorgó casi 2 millones 800.000 dólares en ayuda a las familias en las escuelas primarias católicas diocesanas del condado de Fairfield.

En el año académico 2019-2020, el Fondo de Becas del Obispo recibió más de 2.500 solicitudes de matrícula asistencia y becó a 1.456 estudiantes desde

kindergarten hasta octavo grado con más de 2.800.000 dólares. Los premios oscilan entre 300 y 3.500 dólares por estudiante.

Los beneficiarios del Fondo de Becas del Obispo del año incluyen:

- 48 por ciento recaudado para padres solteros
- 57 por ciento de niños califican para almuerzo gratis o reducido
- Ingreso ajustado promedio del hogar = 52.470 dólares

"Alentamos a todas las familias que necesitan asistencia financiera a que presenten su solicitud. Se puede considerar a familias con varios niños en edad escolar primaria", comentó Holly Doherty-Lemoine, directora ejecutiva de Fundamentos en Educación, una iniciativa sin fines de lucro creada para ayudar a la Diócesis de Bridgeport en su misión continua de apoyar la educación católica en el condado de Fairfield.

¿Quién puede solicitar la asistencia para matrícula?

Todas las familias que tienen un niño o niños inscritos o son nuevos inscritos en una escuela primaria católica diocesana en el condado de Fairfield (grados K-8) y necesitan asistencia financiera para la matrícula.



LA BECAS DEL OBISPO Y LIDERES del Mañana se encuentran disponibles para todos los niños de las escuelas católicas del Condado de Fairfield, sin importar su nivel académico o su condición social.

¿Cómo aplicar?

Complete la solicitud FACTS Grant & Aid en www.FACTSmgt.com/aid, responda todas las preguntas aplicables al Bishop's Scholarship Fund solicitud y cargar toda la documentación de respaldo requerida. Familias pueden escanear y cargar documentos o cargar archivos en formato JPEG o PDF desde un dispositivo móvil.

Ya no se aceptan documentos enviados por fax y por o por correo. Tenga en cuenta que hay un honorario de procesamiento de la solicitud no reembolsable de 30 dólares pagadera con tarjeta de crédito o información bancaria. Solo se requiere una aplicación por familia anualmente.

¿Cuál es la fecha límite?

La fecha límite para estudiantes que regresan es el 15 de marzo de 2020 y para los estudiantes nuevos el 15 de abril del 2020. Solamente se considerarán las solicitudes de FACTS Grant & Aid completadas en línea antes de la fecha límite con todos los documentos de respaldo necesarios.

¿Cómo se otorga la asistencia de matrícula a estudiantes?

- Elegibilidad del programa
- Necesidad financiera
- Momento del envío de la solicitud completa
- Confirmación del registro escolar

¿Cuándo se me notificará una decisión?

Las notificaciones de premios se enviarán por correo electrónico a través de FACTS a las familias

a principios de mayo del 2020. Las nuevas familias recibirán notificaciones por correo electrónico a través de FACTS a partir de finales de mayo del 2020.

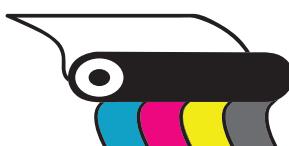
¿Cómo se acepta el premio de beca?

Se le dará una semana para aceptar el premio en línea antes de la fecha límite designada. El crédito a su cuenta de matrícula se realizará una vez que se complete y verifique su inscripción y registro. Tenga en cuenta que, aunque se hacen todos los esfuerzos para otorgar asistencia de matrícula a todos los elegibles para el programa, hay fondos limitados disponibles cada año. Si se le niega la beca, comuníquese de inmediato con la administración de su escuela sobre las opciones adicionales que pueden estar disponibles para usted.

¿Qué documentos necesita?

Formularios W-2 2019. Declaración completa de impuestos Federal del IRS de 2018 o 2019. Familias pueden escanear y cargar documentos o cargar archivos en formato JPEG o PDF desde un dispositivo móvil. Ya no se aceptan documentos enviados por fax y por o por correo. Por favor contacte a su escuela para asistencia. Necesitadas, innovación y subvenciones de liderazgo para el desarrollo profesional de docentes y otras iniciativas educativas.

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2020 Annual Spring Gala
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The Woodway Country Club, Darien

*For more information contact Megan Quinn
mquinn@foundationsineducation.org or call 203-416-1671*

Gala Committee:
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February 2020

FAIRFIELD COUNTY
CATHOLIC

Bits and Pieces

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

CHRIST THE KING SENIOR GROUP on **Feb. 19, 11 am** in the CTK Parish Hall, seniors are invited to meet veteran *Fairfield County Catholic* journalist Patricia Hennessy who will speak about her recent pilgrimage to Europe where she visited the Fatima Shrine, Santiago de Compostela and Lourdes. All seniors are invited to attend. Lunch will be served. For more info or to register: 203.218.3932 or 203.260.6282.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH AND THE ST. CECILIA SOCIETY are delighted to announce a special concert event on **Fri., Feb. 21 at 7 pm** at St. Mary's Church in Norwalk. Admission is free of charge, though donations will be gratefully accepted. All proceeds will benefit the sacred music program at St. Mary's and make more concerts possible in the future. For more info: www.stmarynorwalk.net.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN for Endow Women's Bible Study at St. John the Evangelist in Stamford. The first study, JPII's Letter to Women,

Chrism Mass

Thursday, April 9, 10 am
St. Augustine Cathedral

Celebrated by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano

Blessing of the Holy Oils
Renewal of Priestly Promises
All are welcome!



will meet **Wednesdays** beginning **March 4-April 29 from 7-9 pm** in Stamford. For more info or to register contact Amanda Day at: endow.bsj@gmail.com.

ST. STEPHEN CHURCH in Trumbull will be hosting a Blood Drive to be held on **Sat., March 7** in the Parish Hall from **8 am-1 pm**. The Blood Drive is being held in conjunction with the American Red Cross. Donors should sign up online at www.americanredcrossblood.org.

THE MONROE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS are sponsoring a St. Patrick's Day Celebration concert, **Sat., March 7** at the Rev. Monsignor John Sabia Social Hall, 707 Monroe Turnpike, Monroe, Conn., beginning at **7:30 pm**. As in previous years, the event will be cabaret style and feature the songs and humor of the Keltic Kick Band. Tickets are \$20.00 per person. Proceeds from this concert help support the Knights' various charitable programs for the needy and handi-

To download this Lent Resource provided by the Leadership Institute visit: formationreimagined.org

40 WAYS TO BE THIS LENT



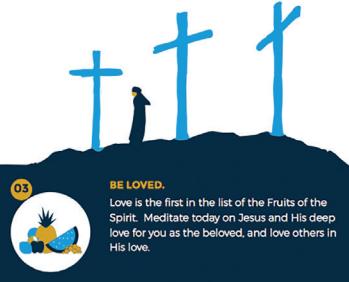
BE PRESENT.

Begin Lent by being present at Ash Wednesday Mass. As you receive the ashes in the sign of the cross, commit to remembering that feeling of the cross on your forehead and what Jesus has done for us in giving His life so that we may have eternal life.



BE REPENTANT.

Sit quietly and open your heart to God. Think about the fruits of the Holy Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control) that you need most. Ask God for forgiveness and find an opportunity to receive the healing Sacrament of Reconciliation.



BE LOVED.

Love is the first in the list of the Fruits of the Spirit. Meditate today on Jesus and His deep love for you as the beloved, and love others in His love.

capped throughout the area. All seating is by reservation only. For further information and tickets, please call Bill Davoren 203.521.5445 or Dave Feola 203.268.4072.

CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS OF GREATER DANBURY will gather **Wed., March 11 and May 13 at 7 pm** for Faith Formation and Discussion at Sacred Heart Parish Center in Danbury. On **Tues., March 3, April 7 and May 5** the group will gather at **6:45 pm** for a Praise and Worship Holy Hour at Sacred Heart Parish in Danbury, followed by a social at a local eatery. On **Tues., Feb. 18** from **7-9:30 pm** the group will gather for a Trivia Night

take place on **Thurs. evenings** and the dates are as follows: St. Jude, Monroe: **March 12, June 11**; St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, Brookfield: **April 9, July 27**; St. Bridget of Ireland, Stamford: **May 7**.

THE WOMEN OF ST. STEPHEN PARISH in Trumbull are having a Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner with entertainment by well-known Irish songwriter and guitarist, Paul Pender & Deidre McMorrow, fiddler, playing and singing traditional Irish & Celtic music. It will be held in the church hall at **6:30 pm on Sat., March 14** and is \$25.00 per person. Call Pat: 203.459.8695 or Doris: 203.261.9778 for reservations.

VATICAN II: THE POWER AND PROMISE discussions led by Deacon Brian Kelly will take place on the third **Thurs.** of every month through April 2020, St. Luke's in Westport at **7:30 pm**. Dates are as follows: **March 19, April 16**.

INTERNATIONAL SPEAKER JEFF CAVINS will be speaking at St. Francis of Assisi in Weston on **Fri., March 20 from 7-8 pm** and on taking your faith to the next level on **Sat., March 21 from 9:45 am-3 pm**. Registration is required by March 13. To register, visit: www.osvonlinegiving.com/1439/DirectDonate/73694; email WomensGuildSFA@gmail.com or call Peggy Shaeffer at 203.226.9387.

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., March 21** with Fr. Michael Boccacio. 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.

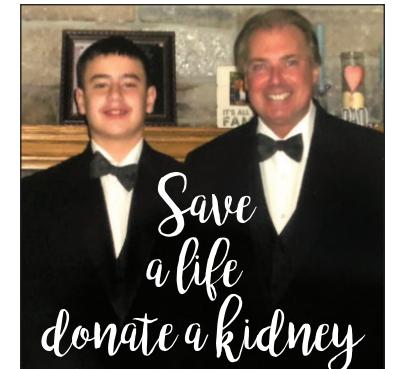
SPEAKER STEVEN MOSHER will be presenting on Overpopulation: The Myth that Kills at St. Theresa Church in Trumbull on **Mon., March 30 at 7 pm**. Steve will give a powerful,

4, 11, 18, June 1, 8. The series includes a Saturday retreat on **May 30** and will be held at St. Pius X Parish Community Center in Fairfield. For further info contact Gail at Holy Family Parish at 203.336.1835, or email: Christlifeffld@gmail.com.

THE MURPHY CENTER FOR IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY will be honoring Father Charles Allen, SJ at their annual benefit dinner on **Sat., April 25 at 6 pm**. For table sponsorships or ticket info, contact Colleen Gilbertson at cgilbertson@fairfield.edu or 203.254.4000, ext. 3468.

PLEASE JOIN FATHER MARCEL AT CHRIST THE KING CHURCH in a two day, one night bus trip to PA at Sight & Sound featuring "Queen Esther." Departure **June 2-3**. Price \$315 (including ticket for the show, hotel, meal and city tour). For info call: 203.434.7208 or call: marcel-saintjean@gmail.com.

SPIRITUAL PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY LAND, ITALY AND MEDJUGORJE—Sept. 14-28, 2020 NY / NY PRICE: \$4,399.00. (Including: airline tickets, taxes, first class hotels, breakfast and dinner daily, sightseeing, transportation to JFK, tips. For reservation please contact Fr. Marcel St. Jean, Christ the King Trumbull, 203.434.7208 or email: marcel-saintjean@gmail.com. ■



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OR
Center for Living Organ Donors
Yale New Haven
Transplantation Center
call: 866.925.3897
ynhh.org/organdonation
Thank you!

St. Jude's Novena

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us.

St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us.
St. Jude, help of the hopeless, pray for us.

Say this prayer nine times a day. By the ninth day your prayer will be answered.
Say it for nine days.
It has never been known to fail.
Publication must be promised.
Thank you St. Jude.

CK



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