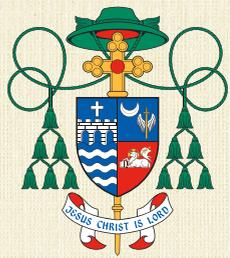




FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC

MARCH 2020 | VOLUME 37, NUMBER 3 | SPECIAL ISSUE



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT

238 Jewett Avenue • Bridgeport, Connecticut 06606 • 203-416-1352 • FAX: 203-371-8323

March 2020

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Who among us could have imagined just a few months ago that our global society would be confronting such a crisis as the Coronavirus pandemic? In these days, who does not feel our collective vulnerability and personal frailty? This is a time when fear and even panic can overtake us, in part because we have far more questions than answers. As Christians, we must resist such fears. Rather, we must respond with prudent actions rooted in charity for our neighbor, seeking to protect the most vulnerable among us, heeding the recommendations that have been mandated by civil authorities and to plead for God's mercy that this scourge will end quickly and that the lives of our sisters and brothers throughout the world will be spared.

In Matthew 8:23-27, we recall the day when the apostles sailing in their boat were suddenly caught in the middle of a great storm that threatened their survival. Their immediate reaction was one of fear and panic. Yet, when they called upon the Lord, He heard their pleas and commanded the winds and the waves to be still. My friends, this is our time, in the middle of a great storm, to cast away our fears, turn to the Lord and to ask for His grace.

In order to protect the lives of the faithful and our priests, I took the extraordinary measure to temporarily suspend public Masses in our diocese. I understand the deep spiritual hardship that this absence has created in the minds and heart of many. Yet, recognizing that our Churches have served as places of refuge in times of need, we will do all that is possible to see that our Churches remain safely open for private prayer, for Exposition of the Eucharist, and to serve as places to seek solace with the Lord.

I also invite you to use this time we now spend at home to prepare more diligently for the celebration of the Easter Mysteries. Personally, I have begun to pray the Stations of the Cross each day, since they powerfully remind me that the Lord always walks with us, helping us to carry our own personal crosses.

In my conversations with our priests and people in the past weeks, I am humbled to see their resolve, goodness and readiness to help all those in need. Please be assured that you are remembered in my prayers as I ask for your prayers during this difficult time. We will get through this together and continue the work of renewal in our lives.

As Christians we know that suffering will always be a part of our life. We understand and accept this mystery at the foot of the Cross of Christ. Yet we also know that the Lord suffered and died so that we might live and share in His victory over fear, suffering and death itself. We are never alone in our sufferings. Christ is here to lead us along paths unknown to victory and life.

This is the time to do as Jesus commanded: to be brave despite fear, to be sensitive and responsive to the needs of others, and to pray. Especially pray. The health and life of so many now hang in the balance. Pray for miracles both medical and spiritual. Pray for the conversion of many hearts. Pray for an end to this scourge in our midst. Pray that the Lord will see us to safety and renewed life. In Him.

Entrusting each one of you to the loving care of our Blessed Mother, I am

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

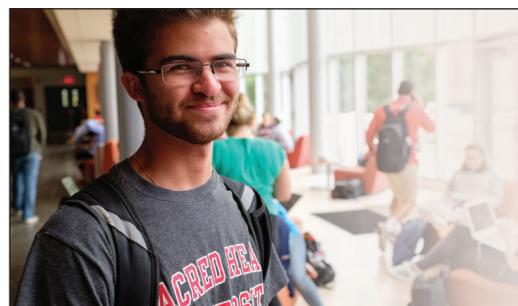
Frank J. Caggiano

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano
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The Leadership Institute

Ministry Day promotes service in everyday lives

By EMILY CLARK

BRIDGEPORT—How can we encourage holiness when families are so busy? Where do we see the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives? How do we know our children are safe in this digital world?

These were just several of the questions posed and topics discussed at the first ever Diocesan Ministry Day, held at All Saints School in Norwalk on Saturday, March 7. Sponsored by The Leadership Institute and guided by the theme of “From Encounter to Accompaniment,” this event drew hundreds from the Diocese of Bridgeport and beyond, offering dozens of workshops from “Tweeting for Jesus” and “Keeping Kids Safe” to those focusing on how to combat loneliness and find true love that lasts.

Attendees began this day of formation with a 9 am Mass celebrated by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano who told the congregation that ministry is “not just doing service but service offered in the name of Jesus—in our schools, on our ball fields, in our kitchens, and at our work places. It is our loving self-giving in our everyday lives.”

“To offer ourselves in love and mercy is ministry,” the bishop said. “This will be an enriching day for us all.”

Dr. Patrick Donovan, director of The Leadership Institute said that earlier gatherings for liturgical ministers and catechists make it clear to him that “people love to talk about their faith” and share their faith journey with others.

“People have to talk about the challenges they face and they love to work on solutions together. Ministry day was an attempt to allow people to learn more about their faith in a variety of ways



GATHERING FOR LEARNING AND SERVICE—More than 300 Liturgical Ministers and Catechists across the diocese participated in the recent Ministry Day held at All Saints School in Norwalk. The day, sponsored by the Leadership Institute, offered a wide variety of workshops and discussions.

and allow people to discuss solutions to the many challenges we face in the world,” said Donovan.

“The people at the Diocese of Bridgeport are hungry to learn more. My hope is that The Leadership Institute can continue to offer opportunities for discussion and formation and continue to engage people they move them closer to God,” he said.

Adding to that enrichment was special musical guest Tony Melendez, an internationally-known singer and “toe-picking” guitarist who was born without arms and lives in awe of all God can do. Melendez led the music at Mass with both traditional hymns and his own compositions. Later, with his brother José, he presented a workshop on



“Seven Steps to Evangelization” and offered a closing prayer at the workshop’s end.

In her presentation “Promoting Holiness in the Next Generation,” Blythe Kaufman, a guest on EWTN and founder of the Children’s Rosary, shared her ministry of leading the very young, especially those with special needs, to a life of prayer. After battling a genetic disorder and having to leave her dental practice, Kaufman said, “God took me in a different direction. This challenge directed my life. Our Lady

is calling everyone to pray the Rosary. And the prayers of children are especially strong.” Since its inception almost a decade ago, the Children’s Rosary now has groups worldwide dedicated to providing a supportive place for children to pray.

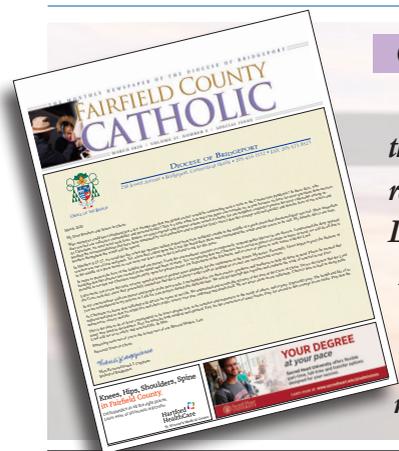
Recognizing the strength of the Holy Spirit, presenter Kathleen O’Keefe challenged listeners to turn to God when there are crises in their lives and feel the Spirit’s presence. As an author and public speaker on the teaching and healing ministry,

O’Keefe feels we need to draw closer to our faith. “We must make time for God like we make time for everything else. Ask Him for guidance,” she advised. “He wants us to talk to Him and give Him all the burdens we have.”

With the ever-changing demographics in society, Msgr. Christopher J. Walsh, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Church in Bridgeport, contemplates how parish ministries prepare for a more racially, ethnically, and culturally diverse Catholic Church. “We need welcoming practices,” he said, acknowledging that everyone should be able to worship in their own language. “That is the key to becoming more multi-cultural.” Sharing stories about the early American church, Msgr. Walsh engaged his attendees with historical facts and trivia questions.

With three rounds of workshops, including a well-attended Parish Council Track for pastoral council members, the Diocesan Ministry Day succeeded in meeting the interest areas of all who attended due to the planning and organization of those at The Leadership Institute. Bishop Caggiano specifically recognized Dr. Patrick Donovan, its executive director, calling him “one who not only speaks of ministry but who lives it and understands it.”

During a Hospitality Break following Mass, lunch at mid-day, and closing prayer at 4:00, participants had the opportunity to share in each other’s fellowship, creating their own ministry throughout the day and learning how to spread the good news in their own communities, thus living out the words Bishop Caggiano offered at Mass, “Loving service is a laying down of one’s life so another may be encouraged.”



ON THE COVER

Thousands throughout the diocese went online to read Bishop Caggiano’s Letter to the Faithful.

For the latest information visit: www.bridgeportdiocese.org/coronavirus-resources-and-information.

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Latest News

Bishop temporarily suspends all public Masses

BRIDGEPORT—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano has mandated that all weekday and Sunday public Masses celebrated in the presence of the lay faithful are temporarily suspended in the Diocese of Bridgeport.

The temporary suspension, issued in a letter to all priests on March 16, will remain in effect until Friday, April 3. At that time the bishop will make any revisions to the policy that are necessary.

Sunday Mass celebrated by Bishop Caggiano or Monsignor Thomas Powers, Vicar General, will be available on the Diocesan Website (www.bridgeportdiocese.org) or on diocesan social media channels including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. Links can be found here (www.bridgeportdiocese.org/dobsocial/home). The Mass will be posted at 8 am every Sunday morning.

The bishop's decision to suspend public Masses was made in response to the March 15, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendation that, for the next 8 weeks, any in-person gatherings of 50 people or more throughout the United States be cancelled or postponed. Governor Lamont today followed that directive and has limited crowds to less than 50 in the State of Connecticut.

"With those standards now in place, out of concern for the common good of ending the spread of the Coronavirus and for the wellbeing of the clergy (many of whom are older and at greater risk) and the lay faithful of the Diocese of Bridgeport, I would like to inform you of some important new directives that will be binding throughout the diocese," the bishop said in a letter to all priests and diocesan officials.

"Please know that I do not make this decision easily. However, this is an extraordinary—and, in some ways, unprecedented—time in the life of the Church, the country and the world, and it requires extraordinary action to ensure the safety of those whom we serve. I appreciate greatly the cooperation of our pastors in communicating this decision to parishioners in a clear and pastoral man-

ner. May we continue to place our trust in Jesus, the Divine Physician, through the loving hands of Our Blessed Mother," the bishop said.

Churches may remain open for private prayer at the discretion of the pastor. Some parishes have also begun streaming of Masses, and the diocese has published that information on its website (www.bridgeportdiocese.org/coronavirus-resources-and-information) Wherever possible, pastors may also provide online viewing of other private devotional events such as recitation of the Rosary and Stations of the Cross.

The diocese will continue to provide updates and the latest news on its website: www.bridgeportdiocese.com and on Facebook and other social media.

The suspension of public Masses in the diocese until April 3, will also have an impact on sacramental liturgies including Baptism, weddings and funerals.

Temporary Sacramental Guidelines:

Baptism

Parishes may postpone Baptisms until a later date in the spring or summer, however any parents who do not wish to delay the sacrament will be accommodated. Celebrations of Baptism should be limited to the parents, godparents, grandparents and other immediate family and should be

conducted in a manner that allows for proper social spacing.

First Communion

At this point, there is no need at this point to cancel Masses of First Communion scheduled after April 3. However, pastors should be prepared to reschedule if necessary.

Confirmation

In his letter to pastors of March 12, Bishop Caggiano postponed all Confirmations in the diocese scheduled to take place before Easter Sunday.

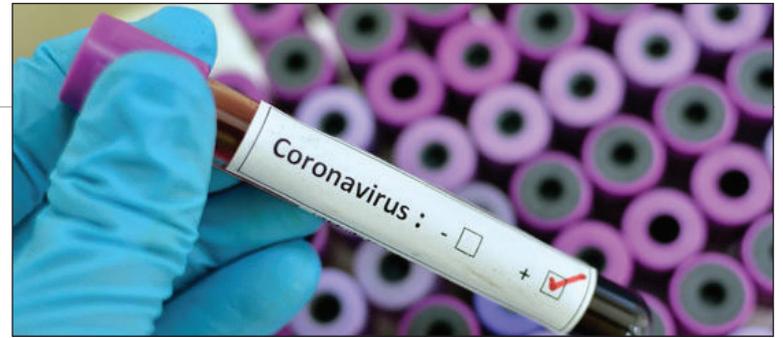
Weddings and Funerals

The celebration of weddings and funerals may continue as planned, but the Rites should be celebrated outside of Mass. Also, the guests should be limited to immediate family and close friends only.

Regarding the celebration of funerals, pastors should see that a Mass for the Dead is celebrated in private for the deceased at the nearest possible date following death, or, if the family desires, a public memorial Mass could be celebrated at a later date for the repose of the soul of the deceased and the consolation of the family.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Recognizing that a time of crisis can also be a time of personal conversion, the bishop said the diocese has an obligation to continue to provide the Sacrament



of Reconciliation to those who request it. Therefore, he has asked pastors to maintain their regular hours for Confession to the extent possible. However, communal penance services are not permitted and, if already scheduled, should be cancelled.

Anointing of the Sick

As much as possible, priests are encouraged to administer the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick as needed. However, the bishop is asking all of our priests to observe prudence and common sense and take necessary health and safety precautions.

Those who have been diagnosed with Coronavirus and who are in hospitals or nursing homes will be anointed by the chaplain of each institution, who must use the necessary protective gear and collaborate with the administration and health care professional at each hospital or nursing home.

Older or vulnerable priests have been asked by the bishop to refrain from providing the sacrament or visiting the sick or homebound until the crisis is clearly over.

The diocese will continue to work with the diocesan chaplains of hospitals and nursing homes to develop more-detailed protocols should they be necessary.

Eucharist Adoration

Although no public Masses

are currently being offered in the diocese, the bishop said that it is important that our churches, as much as possible, remain open during some portion of the day so that the lay faithful are given the opportunity to pray before the Blessed Sacrament and spend some time in quiet meditation. "Most especially during this unsettling time, I want our parishioners to remain in close contact with the Eucharist and with their parish," he said.

Each pastor will determine the scheduling and feasibility; however the bishop is recommending that parishes provide this opportunity for a suitable period of time each Sunday afternoon.

Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of the Clergy Residence

Last week, out of concern for the retired priests who reside at Queen of the Clergy, the bishop asked that no outside visitors except for health care personnel be permitted inside the building. Also, for the last several weeks the staff at Queen of the Clergy has been extra diligent in cleaning and disinfecting the residence regularly and wearing protective masks and gloves when serving the needs of the priests.

Effective March 18, the bishop also asked the residents of Queen of the Clergy for the next three weeks to remain inside as much as possible and to exit the building only for exercise or for essential appointments, such as visits to the doctor, banking or essential shopping. Furthermore, any resident in the building who must leave and reenter the building regularly for any reason has been asked to temporarily relocate during this period.

Catholic Center

Beginning March 17, the Catholic Center moved to a predominantly work-from-home environment, which we will reassess on March 30. Also, all large (more than five people) in-person meetings scheduled to take place at the Catholic Center have been postponed, cancelled or are to be conducted via teleconferencing.

All essential staff of offices at the Catholic Center will be present so as to minimize the impact on daily operations and on parishes. ■

Get the latest news online

Thousands of Catholics throughout the diocese are turning to diocesan social media for the latest news and update on the response to the coronavirus crisis.

In one day alone, more than 13,500 visitors learned about Bishop Frank J. Caggiano's difficult decision to suspend all public Masses until March 3 by visiting the diocesan website: www.bridgeportdiocese.com

John Grosso, director of Digital Media for the diocese, said that the diocesan website has recorded more than 65,000 hits since to its special corona-

virus page and updates from the bishop.

The website offers a list of televised Masses available in the diocese and the announcement of a special Mass said by Bishop Caggiano or Msgr. Thomas Powers, diocesan vicar general, that will be live streamed every Sunday and available on our diocesan website (www.bridgeportdiocese.org) or on diocesan social media channels (www.bridgeportdiocese.org/dobsocial/home).

Parishioners are also invited to receive the weekly email newsletter of the diocese that is sent out free of charge to more than 28,000 Catholics throughout Fairfield

County. To join the mailing list, go to the diocesan website and enter your email in the box under "Sign Up for Our Newsletter."

Keep up to date with the latest information, resources, and communications from Bishop Frank, as well as videos (including the celebration of Holy Mass), podcasts and more. Sign up for our email newsletter by going to our homepage (bridgeportdiocese.org) and scrolling down to the sign up box!

For a complete list of all diocesan social media accounts visit: www.bridgeportdiocese.org/dobsocial. ■

Annual Catholic Appeal

‘What we do for others, we do for Christ’

By **JOE PISANI**

TRUMBULL—When Kelly Anne Murphy talks about the good works the Church does, she recalls her grandmother Margaret Conlisk, an immigrant from County Mayo who like many others came to America from Ireland and brought their faith with them. They took jobs as housekeepers and laborers and lived lives centered on Christ.

“My grandmother always said that you never miss anything you give to the Church,” Kelly Anne recalled. “You went to Mass and put your money in the basket... and it better not jingle.”

She and her husband Dan share that ethic, and this year were named the vice chair couple of Renew 2020 Annual Catholic Appeal, whose goal is \$9 million. Members of the Parish of St. Catherine of Siena in Trumbull, they regularly volunteer at Thomas Merton Center and St. Catherine Center for Special Needs, along with other ministries.

“Our parents raised us in a Catholic house and it has carried on down the generations,” said Dan, who admits to becoming fully immersed in the faith after their oldest daughter Alana start-

ed asking theological questions at 6-years-old, which he describes as “pretty deep.” He must have done a good job answering them because today Alana is a senior at Boston College with a double major in philosophy and English.

The Murphys are committed to Catholic education. All four of their children attended St. Catherine of Siena School, where Kevin is a 7th-grader. Sean is a freshman at Trumbull High and Bridget is a junior at Fordham University, majoring in mathematics.

“Catholic education is very important because it reinforces what is happening at home,” said Kelly Anne, who is also a catechist for eighth-graders. Service was a fundamental part of their family life. “Whenever we were involved in different activities, we would bring our kids with us,” Dan said, “so they could see Mom and Dad in action with other families.”

Both daughters participate in programs that include tutoring children in the South Bronx and traveling to Lourdes with members of the Order of Malta to work with other volunteers hospitalers assisting the sick and infirm.



DAN AND KELLY ANNE MURPHY

The Murphys are members of the Order of Malta and also volunteer during the organization’s annual pilgrimages to Lourdes for the sick visiting the shrine to Our Lady.

Dan, a CPA with 20 years of executive finance and accounting experience, is a fourth degree member of the Knights of Columbus and belongs to the Ancient Order of Hibernians. The Murphys have seen firsthand the programs that benefit from the Annual Catholic Appeal. Kelly Anne is especially focused on St. John Fisher

Seminary and Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of the Clergy Residence for retired priests because her uncle, Father John Conlisk, was a priest in the Diocese of Bridgeport. She still recalls the first time she volunteered at the Merton Center. “I was on the line, scooping out the food and trying to interact with the guests, and I looked across at these people and thought any one of us is two steps away from being in that line, and it hit home that we were really blessed. We’re not in the line and we are blessed to be serving in the

line.”

“Nearly eight out of ten families are living paycheck to paycheck nationwide,” Dan said.

“That means if the next paycheck doesn’t come in, people don’t eat and they don’t pay the bills to keep the lights on.... We see families with young children and unless you’ve been there, you don’t understand that it is a much wider demographic getting services from Merton and the other programs in Fairfield County.”

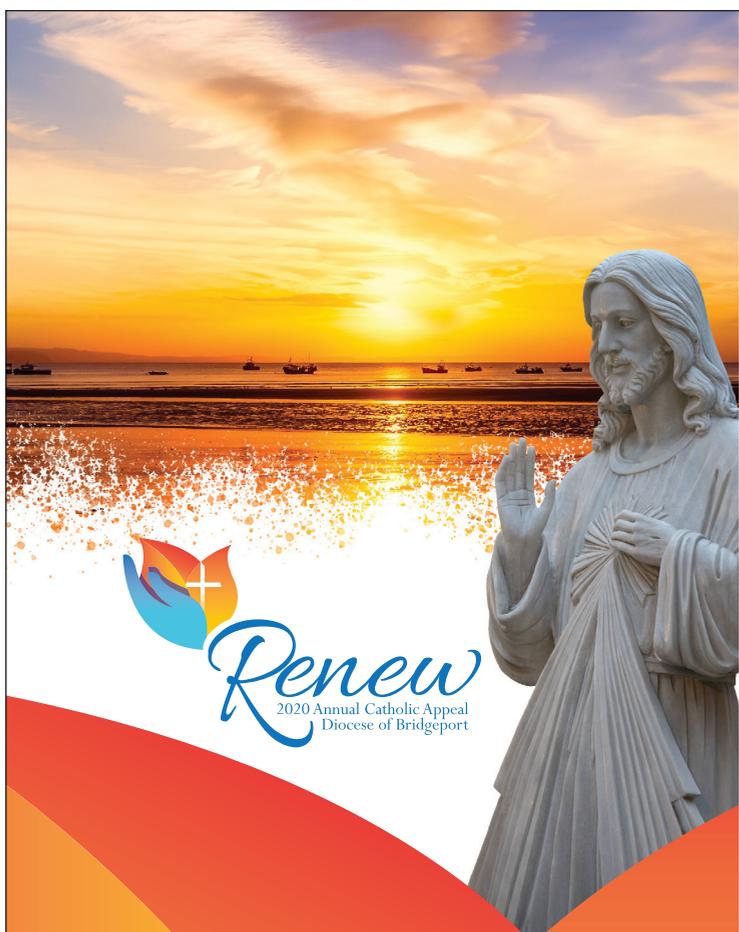
The Murphys live less than five miles from the Merton Center and often bring their sons with them to help serve so they see the poverty that is so close to home, even in Fairfield County.

“The people who come in that we serve are our guests. That is the Catholic way of looking at it.

There’s no other way to view it,” Kelly Anne said.

“What we are able to do for our brothers and sisters, we are doing for Christ,” Dan said.

“To be part of the Annual Catholic Appeal and bear witness to all the works that are done on behalf of Catholic Charities is a privilege. You can serve in three ways—with your time, your talent and your treasure. The fact is you need all three.”



2020 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

On behalf of the Diocesan Development Office and the Annual Catholic Appeal, we thank all those who have given sacrificially in the past—gifts that help people during crisis and troubled times in their lives.

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Coronavirus Update

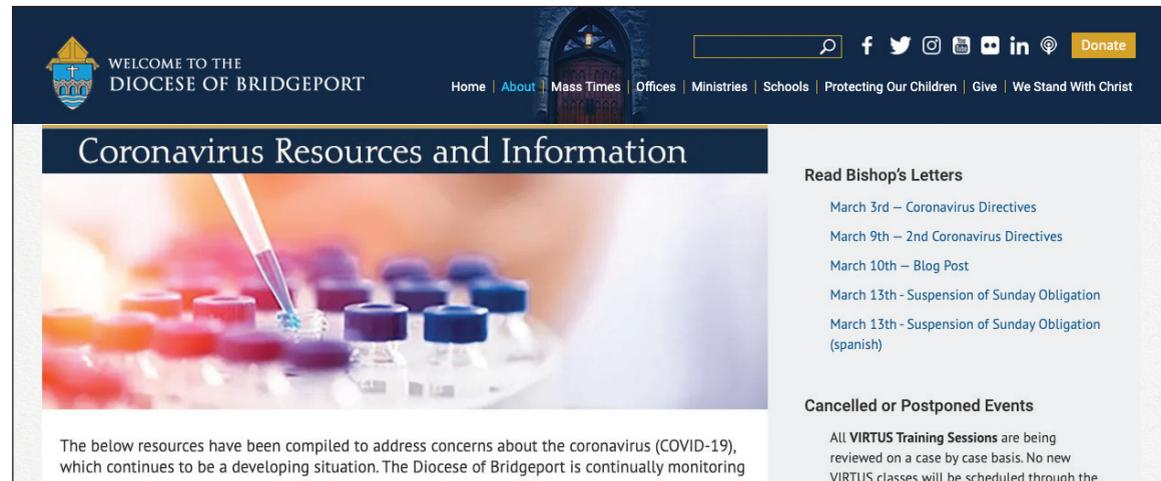
Diocese sets up special Coronavirus web page

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

BRIDGEPORT—In response to the growing number of calls and concerns related to the Coronavirus and its impact on liturgical practices, the diocese has produced a special web page to offer the latest news, resources and information.

People throughout the diocese can visit the website at any time for updates: www.bridgeportdiocese.org/coronavirus-resources-and-information.

The web page includes copies of the letters issued by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, a listing of cancelled or postponed events, information on diocesan ministries and programs, a guide to Masses on television and radio,



and links to state and federal resources and guidelines.

“With the recent development of cases being identified in Fairfield County, the web page

outlines the precautions and practices that are now required to be implemented in our parishes, schools, and institutions,” said John Grosso, director of Digital

Media for the diocese.

Grosso, who created the special web page, said that in the first seven days alone, there were more than 6,000 views by

people throughout the diocese seeking information and reassurance that the diocese is being pro-active in its approach.

The Diocese of Bridgeport is continually monitoring the status of the virus in the Fairfield County community, consulting with health care professionals and experts when appropriate.

Recognizing that many people may not be able to attend Mass during the outbreak, the website also provides links to TV Masses available through Office of Radio and Television of the Archdiocese of Hartford (WCCT-TV), Catholic TV, EWTN, Sirius XM Catholic Channel.

The site also includes a copy of the Spiritual Communion

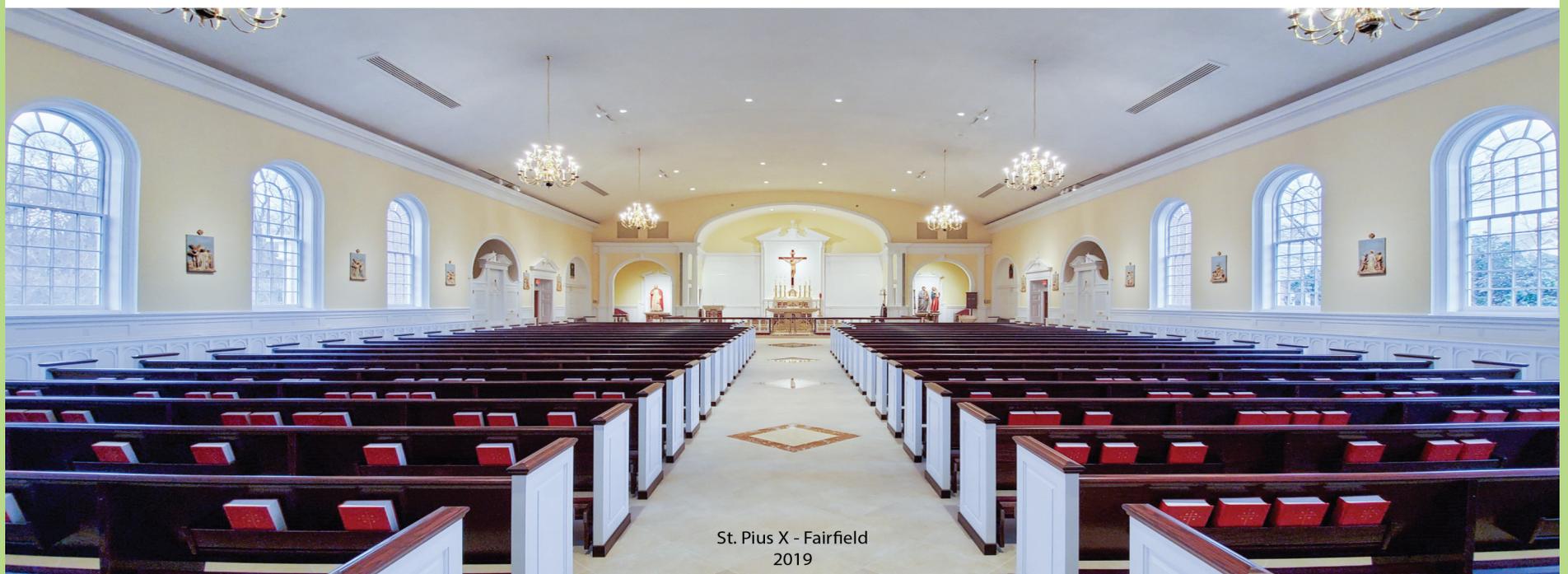
▶ *CONTINUED ON PAGE 15*



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Catholic Charities

In a time of crisis, food pantries remain open

By ELIZABETH CLYONS

BRIDGEPORT—As news continues to develop on the potential threat of the novel coronavirus to our area, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano has released multiple directives, along with the announcement of school closings and parish event cancellations.

With the closing of schools and programs throughout the diocese, there is a worry that some may be left without the resources they need.

“This is the time we need to be open to serve our clients, says Mike Donoghue, executive director of Catholic Charities of Fairfield County. “We are ready,

willing and able to step up.”

In an effort to combat worry, below is a list of the food pantries in the area that are still in operation:

Catholic Charities The Thomas Merton Center—43 Madison Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06604 203.367.9036 www.themertoncenter.org

New Covenant Center—174 Richmond Hill Avenue Stamford, CT 06902 203.964.8228 www.newcovenantcenter.org

In the community Bridgeport Public Schools will open emergency food service sites

during the school closure. The sites will be open Monday-Friday to provide breakfast and lunch to Bridgeport Public School students.

Visit www.bridgeportedu.net for locations and time schedule.

Blessed Sacrament Food Pantry—The Church of the Blessed Sacrament 275 Union Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06607

With many overbuying supplies in order to prepare, some grocery stores are left with sparse inventory. For those who have more than enough, there is the potential to donate to these food



pantries. Especially during the season of Lent, when almsgiving is at the forefront of our minds, what can we do to help those who may be most adversely affected by the current crisis?

Catholic Charities of Fairfield County is making sure that they are ready and available for their clients at this time. That being said, they are also keeping the needs of their employees and volunteers in mind, encouraging anyone in an at-risk situation to stay home.

Donoghue has expressed that Catholic Charities of Fairfield County’s programs are currently

taking measures to try and set up more to-go options at their food pantries, as well as putting together wish lists of items that are needed. “We want to be a place where people in need can come,” says Donoghue.

In a message of hope, Donoghue expresses that Catholic Charities has received calls from many college-aged kids and those who are in good health, who are ready to help, offering their time.

“Usually in times of crisis, this is when the best of people come out,” Donoghue says.

In a recent Facebook post, **▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 15**



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We Stand With Christ

Parishes, foundations receive first funds

By JOE PISANI

BRIDGEPORT—The We Stand With Christ capital campaign recently began distributing funds to parishes and the diocesan foundations for education, faith and charity, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano announced this week. As of December 31, 2019, the We Stand With Christ board has approved distributions totaling \$21.4 million to parishes and Foundations in Education, Foundations in Faith and Foundations in Charity. All future available funds for disbursements will be approved by the board on a quarterly basis.

The campaign, which is the most successful in the 66-year history of the Diocese of Bridgeport, has passed its original goal of \$75 million.

“First and foremost, I want to express my deep gratitude, for We Stand With Christ has been wildly successful,” Bishop Caggiano said. “At the heart of our campaign is a vision for the future of our Church that puts God’s children first, and for all these months, we have been reflecting together on those with whom we stand with Christ—our neighbors, the poor, our students, our elderly, our youth.”

Bishop Caggiano credited the

14,500 people who have made pledges, the pastors and hundreds of volunteers who took part, calling it “an extraordinary demonstration of generosity and leadership and support of the mission of the Church during a difficult period.”

The We Stand With Christ campaign designated 50 percent of donations for long-term needs of parishes, and the remaining 50 percent will be invested to create endowments for three foundations, which are lay-run non-profits. The endowments will provide funds that will help make diocesan ministries financially secure into the future.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN—The successful Capital Campaign has enabled many parishes to move ahead with much needed renovations, install new technology and launch initiatives that bring parishioners together for worship and service.

“We have been given the opportunity to grow in faith and to grow in community with one another as missionary disciples in the world, to bring the Good News to a waiting world,” Bishop Caggiano said. “Through your generosity, we now have resources we didn’t have before, and we can move this mission

forward.”

Redemption phase begins

Seventy parishes have entered the redemption phase of the campaign, while nine remaining parishes will complete the campaign by this fall.

As of December 31, 2019, \$12.4 million was distributed to

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



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Magnificat at St. Stephen's, Trumbull

Women invited to join their 'Beautiful Ministry'

By EMILY CLARK

TRUMBULL—Magnificat—a Ministry to Catholic Women held a “Come and Listen” informal gathering on Saturday morning, February 22 at St. Stephen’s Church in Trumbull to provide information to those interested in joining their organization. Founded over twenty years ago, the Triumphant Heart of Mary Immaculate chapter of this international group has a goal of bringing Catholic women together. Bonding in a shared love of their faith, these women find a deeper commitment to the Lord through prayer, service and support.

“We want to give everybody an idea of what Magnificat is,”

said new chapter coordinator Carol Flynn who is succeeding long-time coordinator Fran Hood. “We hope to reach others and encourage them to share whatever gifts they may have.”

As an outreach ministry, Magnificat has a service team working to plan and coordinate multiple functions throughout the year. The focal event of this group is the Magnificat Meal, typically semi-annual breakfasts with fellowship, praise and worship, and personal testimony. In addition, the coordinators hold prayer cenacles twice a month, host Masses and Days of Renewal, participate in the March for Life in Washington, D.C., and attend international conferences, among



CAROL FLYNN, COORDINATOR of Magnificat Women’s Ministry speaks at the recent a “Come and Listen” informal gathering in Trumbull to provide information to those interested in joining their organization.

others. The success of Magnificat is due to the dedication of the women who feel, as Flynn said, that they are called by name and guided by the Holy Spirit.

Supporting them as well is spiritual director Fr. Larry Carew. “Christ has a message for you to fulfill,” he told the attendees. “God has given Mary to us, and we speak to bring Mary’s love to the world.”

According to Roxane Angotta, assistant coordinator, it was the chance to spread that love, evangelize, and find a Catholic sisterhood that brought her to Magnificat at its inception. “Like Mary, I said, ‘Let me be your handmaid.’ Wherever I am needed, I will come.”

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



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This is the day the lord has made; let
us rejoice and be glad.
-Psalm 118

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EDITORIAL

Act of Spiritual
Communion

With Masses being suspend throughout the diocese, we all have the opportunity to make an Act of Spiritual Communion in solidarity with those who are suffering and uncertain. This simple prayer unites us all in faith, hope and trust in the Lord:

“My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.”

Remember the 3 P's

“As the coronavirus crisis deepens across the world, allow me to suggest three ways by which we can respond in a way consistent with our Catholic faith. For ease of remembrance, I can call this advice the ‘three p’s.’

Preparation: It is important that in every aspect of our lives, we prepare ourselves in every way possible to keep ourselves and our neighbors safe from this virus. Much of what we should do has been explained in great detail by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. We need to remember that our preparations (i.e., washing our hands frequently, disinfecting any public area that is touched by many people, etc.) is an act of charity, protecting not simply ourselves but the most vulnerable in our midst, especially the elderly and sick.

Prudence: The definition of prudence is the ability to govern and discipline oneself by use of reason. This means that we should not overreact or give into a sense of panic that can easily be generated by some of the media coverage we hear each day. We need to act reasonably, proportionately and decisively in our preparations and interactions with others. Once again, refraining from unnecessary handshakes, avoiding large crowds at events for which our presence is neither required nor needed, are acts of prudence that are charitable and in service of our neighbor.

Prayer: This is a time when we must offer intercessory prayers for all those who have died from this disease, that they may rest in the Lord's peace. We must pray for consolation for their families and loved ones during their time of sorrow and grief. Let us also pray for those who have been sickened by the virus, that they will soon recover, and for all those who are quarantined and are living alone and in fear. Finally, let us pray that this emergency may pass and that our love for one another will help us to make the right decisions to keep each other safe.”

(The above reflection originally appeared on Bishop Frank J. Caggiano's Facebook page. Follow the bishop for daily reflections and weekly videos.)

Lenten Prayer

“My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that, if I do this,
You will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore I will trust you always
though I may seem to be lost
and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.”

Thomas Merton from *Thoughts in Solitude* (1958)

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Diocesan Archivist Deacon Bill Bissenden retires

By ELIZABETH CLYONS

BRIDGEPORT—Diocesan ministry leaders and employees gathered at the Catholic Center recently to bid a fond farewell to Deacon Bill Bissenden who retired in February after 17 years of service to the diocese as its archivist.

Father Robert Kinnally, chancellor of the Diocese of Bridgeport, praised Deacon Bissenden for his unsung dedication and professionalism in the storing and retrieving of diocesan records.

During the reception, Deacon Bissenden reflected on the richness and surprises involved in the study of history and its relevance for contemporary life in the Church and society.

In 2003, Deacon Bissenden began managing archives for the Diocese of Bridgeport. “I had always liked records,” shared Deacon Bill. After working in engineering and management, he was interested in learning more and getting an education in archives, and this was the perfect opportunity for him to follow that

dream.

“It was a way to fill the need of record-keeping that the diocese had, while also doing something I had always wanted to do,” shared the deacon.

Some of his favorite memories of working in archives were the week-long conferences at Mundeline Seminary, during which members of the ACDA (Association of Catholic Diocesan Archivists) would meet. Deacon fondly remembers the people he met through this association, of which he would eventually become president.

Deacon Bissenden was ordained a deacon by Bishop Edward M. Egan in 1994 at St. Augustine Cathedral. He has lived in Bridgeport with his wife Elaine of 54 years, and they have two children and one granddaughter.

A native of Bethel and convert to Catholicism, Deacon



Bissenden served as a deacon at St. Patrick's Parish in Bridgeport, and remains a very active member of the community there.

When asked of his plans for retirement, he says he plans to keep up with his health and projects around the house...and maybe find some more work to do. Rest assured, nothing is slowing Deacon down! ■

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS



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

JUDGE

FATHER MICHAEL A. BOCCACCIO, to Judge for the Diocesan Tribunal of Bridgeport. Effective date was February 17. Father Boccaccio will remain Director for Pontifical Mission Societies.

CHAPLAIN

FATHER DONALD L. KLOSTER, from Parochial Vicar, Saint Mary Parish, Norwalk, to Chaplain, Saint Joseph Manor, Trumbull. Effective date was March 1. Father Kloster will reside at Saint Augustine Cathedral Rectory in Bridgeport.

DIRECTOR

DEACON GERALD LAMBERT, to Director of the Diaconate. Effective date was February 2. Deacon Lambert will remain Coordinator of Diaconate Office and Diaconate Formation.

Monsignor Thomas W. Powers
Vicar General, March, 2020

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Diocese of Bridgeport

238 Jewett Avenue
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06606-2892
telephone | 203.416.1461
fax | 203.374.2044
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Web | www.bridgeportdiocese.com
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Publisher

Brian D. Wallace
Executive Editor bdwallace@diobpt.org

Elizabeth Clyons
Writer/Editor elizabeth.clyons@diobpt.org

Renée Stamatis
Art Director rstamatis@diobpt.org

Ralph Lazzaro
Advertising Manager rlazzaro@diobpt.org

Brian A. Wallace
Graphic Designer bwallace@diobpt.org

John Grosso
Social Media Leader jgrosso@diobpt.org

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Editorial



The woman at the well is in my parish

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.

There's a woman in my parish, you may have noticed her. She comes in through the back and sits with her head down. Her eyes are closed and her hands are open toward the sky. She doesn't look you in the eye but there is always the slight twinge of a smile pulling at the sides of her mouth. She is not dressed in her Sunday best, in fact, she looks as if she has walked for miles and miles to be here. But yet she is here—week

after week, she is here.

When her eyes are not down-cast she looks directly at the Cross. She looks as though she has weathered many storms. There is pain in the lines on her face, there are stories of hurt in her eyes. Her hair is windblown. But yet she is here—week after week, she is here.

She blends in to the crowd, she asks for no recognition. In fact, you may not have noticed her there at all. But yet she is

here—week after week, she is here.

No one knows why she returns. In fact, no one cares to know much about her at all. And she likes it that way, for if they did, she fears, they might not let her back in. But yet she is here—week after week, she is here.

But if we were to listen to the stories she had to tell, if we were to care, we would surely see God's divine hand woven like strings of gold throughout her life. If you were to tell her that, she would simply cast her head down again, or maybe look toward the Cross, the slight twinge of a smile pulling at the sides of her mouth. She would

shake her head, thinking of her many wanderings, her many mistakes. But yet she is here—week after week, she is here.

Surely she does not know Jesus, one would say. Just look at her haggard appearance.

“But if we were to listen to the stories she had to tell, if we were to care, we would surely see God's divine hand woven like strings of gold throughout her life.”

She doesn't even mouth the prayers, just sits with her eyes closed and head down. Surely, she cannot know Him. But yet she is here—week after week, she is here.

Little do they know, she is close to His very heart. And He

smiles on her in her efforts. And when she falls—which she does often—He is there to help her up. He calls her to Himself. She is far from perfect, but that is not what He wants. He does not turn her away. He offers her Living Water and she drinks.

You don't know her, you don't see her. But yet she is here—week after week, she is here.

And when she leaves she tells others of her experience. “He told me everything I ever did” (John 4:39). “And still he calls me to Him, and still He loves me.”

They say to the woman, “We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world” (John 4:42).

The woman at the well is in my parish. She is here—week after week, she is here. ■



Now is the springtime of our social distance

A DAD'S VIEW

BY MATTHEW HENNESSEY

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

It was only an onion. Half an onion, actually. I was going to throw it away. It had been on the cutting board for a few hours. In the time of pandemic quarantine, Daddy's work on the computer gives way to dinner time, which gives way to bath time, which gives way to toothbrushing time, which gives way to bedtime and its stories about Billy Hennessey the Famous Tiger Hunter.

When the tigers have all been hunted, lights out gives way to a cold beer and a seat next to my beautiful wife on the couch. Cleaning up the kitchen comes last. By the time I got around to it on this particular night, the half onion was looking tired. Onions

do poorly in the open air.

If I thought about it I'd have to say we throw away far too much good food: bruised bananas, elderly potatoes, cereal that just didn't get eaten in time. It's shameful, but only when you think about it. Most of the time you don't. The great world spins, the fridge fills up and you say, “Soon it will be summer and we can have blueberries for breakfast and watermelon at lunch and won't that be the snaps.”

So I deemed the half onion on the cutting board not worth saving. There's usually a bag full of them on the bottom shelf in the kitchen and sometimes when you reach for one it has a green

shoot growing from the top. I'm not sure if those are safe to eat or not.

A yellow onion costs what—30 cents at the store? Why settle for one that isn't perfect?

Then I had a terrible thought. This coronavirus thing has come on so strong, so quickly. Six weeks from now will I wish I hadn't wasted that onion? A vision came suddenly, as visions often do, of a broken society, a paralyzed economy, of complete chaos, the kind of place where you can't get a roll of toilet paper, much less an onion.

I'm sure many have had similar visions in recent weeks. But such is my faith in this country's resilience that I picked up the half onion and launched it toward the wastebasket with a flick of the wrist, like John Starks. Swish.

I wasn't going to write about the onion. I was going to write about the sabbath, the Lord's Day, the day of rest. I was planning a meditation on family and leisure in a culture of distraction. I was going to tie the enforced isolation of our pandemic spring to an assignment Clara was

given at her new high school, Cardinal Kung Academy in Stamford: Arrange your weekend in such a way that Sunday can truly be called the sabbath day. Now that's the kind of assignment you don't get in a public school.

“Whatever you do, try to keep it light,” my wife told me as I went upstairs to write. “People don't want to read things that are sad and depressing right now. They want to laugh.”

“Too late,” I said. The onion thing had already settled in my brain. Onions have so many layers.

In Italy they are throwing away people. The Italian health system is so strapped that doctors are doing the unthinkable, rationing care and leaving those deemed unlikely to recover—the old, the weak, the already sick—to their fate. Of course, their fate is death.

A trio of health experts wrote recently in the New York Times that we should expect such agonies will be necessary here.

I'm troubled by all this, as perhaps you can tell. My father is 85. He has all the health concerns

normally associated with the later stages of this mingled yarn called life. My mother-in-law is 79. Her hearing isn't so good. My Magdalena has Down syndrome. Society already doesn't feel like it needs an excuse to throw lives like hers away.

What will become of us in this time of trial, separated as we are from our places of worship, watching Sunday Mass on the computer like teenage gamers, kept away from our sacraments and at a social distance from our priests? What will become of our neighbors and friends, our communities, our country? I suppose it's in God's hands, as all things must be.

Keep it light, she said. Okay. Soon it'll be summer. The bans will have lifted and the bars will be full. The shows will all have gone on. There'll be good news on the radio, sun in the outfielders' eyes, and fireworks on the Fourth of July. We'll have a cook-out in the backyard. All our friends will be there, eating hamburgers, hot dogs, and watermelon slices. I'll have a cold beer in the shade.

And won't that be the snaps. ■

Knights of Columbus

Celebration of Motherhood

By KATHY-ANN GOBIN

DANBURY—Dozens of people gathered at St. Joseph in Danbury for a celebration of motherhood.

The second annual event was hosted by the Knights of Columbus McGivney Council 29.

“We are here today to sponsor a celebration of motherhood as part of our outreach program,” said Michael Farkas, an officer in the Knights of Columbus. “Our Mother, Mary, was the best and prime example of Motherhood. We are encouraged by your presence here today and introduce you to services and resources available to you in your journey, with Christ, in motherhood.”

The Knights of Columbus is an organization of Catholic men whose first principle is charity. The organization was founded in the late 1800s to address the

plight of widows and orphans resulting from the death of Catholic men in the harsh working conditions of the time. The McGivney Council serves eight Catholic churches in Danbury.

Women were greeted by men from the Knights of Columbus as they entered the church, given a candle and escorted to sit in a pew.

“Motherhood is a very high calling,” said Reverend David Franklin, parochial vicar of St. Joseph. “All mothers who wish to be true to their high calling only need to look to Mary, Mother of God, who is the true model of motherhood.”

During the half hour prayer service, punctuated with organ-accompanied hymns including, “Immaculate Mary,” the candles were blessed and women were invited to come to the front of the church to have the candle they were given, repre-

senting the light of Christ, lit.

Brunch was offered by the Knights of Columbus in the church hall following the prayer service as well as an opportunity to learn about the dozens of services and resources available to help mothers and families.

A list of 35 organizations with phone numbers, websites and physical addresses were provided to all. Representatives from numerous organizations including Safe Families for Children were on hand to answer any questions.

“So many moms have no one to turn to. They are alone,” said Michelle Montague, director of the Connecticut chapter of the national organization. The mission of Safe Families for Children is to temporarily host children and support families in crisis who have nowhere else to turn by surrounding them with caring,



THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS McGivney Council 29 recently sponsored a celebration of motherhood at St. Joseph in Danbury. “Motherhood is a very high calling,” said Reverend David Franklin, parochial vicar of St. Joseph. “All mothers who wish to be true to their high calling only need to look to Mary, Mother of God, who is the true model of motherhood.”

compassionate community. “We build relationships with these moms. We become their family, so they don’t get isolated.”

Carolyn Silliman, the program coordinator for Catholic Charities of Greater Danbury’s Family Loan Program, said every phone call received is an opportunity to connect people with services in their area that they may not know are available to them.

One of the programs offered by the organization and supported by partnerships with local banks, is a small loan program that offers struggling families with a less than favorable credit score,

the opportunity to get a loan for a car or to repair a car so they have a safe and reliable vehicle to meet family or work obligations.

The Knights of Columbus provided childcare during the celebration of motherhood event and free coats were available for children through the Coats for Kids program.

Representatives from the various organizations including Birthright of Greater Danbury, Alcoholics Anonymous and others also had an opportunity to discuss potential ways to collaborate with each other for the betterment of the community. ■



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St. Philip Parish

Food Fast helps raise awareness of world hunger

By ELIZABETH CLYONS

NORWALK—St. Philip Church recently hosted its annual Food Fast to help raise awareness of world hunger, in collaboration with local parishes and Catholic Relief Services.

Youth and volunteers fasted for 24 hours in solidarity with those who suffer from food insecurity in the world.

Father Sudhir, pastor of St. Philip's said the parish has been advocating for this cause for more than 18 years. The St. Philip community is passionate about the issue of world hunger and they have worked hard to raise over \$360,000 through their efforts over the years.

In a video shown to participants and adult volunteers at the beginning of the event, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano addressed the teens, "I can think of no better way to start Lent than to enter into the sacrifice of the season, and that is exactly what you're doing—sacrificing of yourself so that someone else may have greater life."



24-HOUR FAST—Young people from St. Philip's fasted in solidarity and to raise funds for Catholic Relief Services. "I can think of no better way to start Lent than to enter into the sacrifice of the season—sacrificing so that someone else may have a great life," Bishop Caggiano told the young people who participated.



The bishop promised to pray for the participants and thanked them for their efforts.

Mayor Rilling and Senator Duff joined the group at St. Philip's to support the effort, and participants heard from guest speaker Dale Williams from the Midnight Run Organization.

about hunger, people won't understand. It is only when you experience being hungry that you can more fully know the pain of others, of people your own age, of people all over the world," says Dsouza.

Money raised from the event is benefiting the Catholic Relief Service Program, which provides aid to those in need overseas.



(Donations can be made by visiting the parish website at: www.stphilipnorwalk.org.)

"Always very proud of the kids who fast for 30 hours to bring awareness to hunger in our area and around the world. A

pleasure to support them every year," Senator Duff posted on his Facebook page.

"If you are just speaking

EXPERIENCE GRACE.
SURRENDER TO LOVE.
LEAD JOYFULLY.

St. Pius X
Catholic Church

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

HOLY THURSDAY

APRIL 9, 2020

On Holy Thursday, our Lord gave us the gift of the priesthood and of the Eucharist. In this time that we have been separated from the great and holy Sacrament of the Altar, may this Holy Thursday inspire a hunger for the Eucharist in our hearts!

GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 10, 2020

On Good Friday, our Lord poured Himself out in suffering on the Cross as a sacrificial offering for the forgiveness of our sins. The social distancing we are forced to practice is teaching us to make sacrifices for the good of others. May this Good Friday inspire in our hearts a readiness to give of ourselves in imitation of Christ, and a spirit of true contrition for our sins!

HOLY SATURDAY

APRIL 11, 2020

On Holy Saturday, the world was silent, awaiting the day of Resurrection. The disruption of our routines this Lent has been a moment to enter into silence, meditation, and reflection on God's holy word and plan. May the fruit of our silence on this Holy Saturday be a heightened anticipation and joyful expectation of the glorious new life of our Lord.

EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 12, 2020

On Easter Sunday, Jesus Christ triumphed over sin and death. May our celebration of these Paschal Mysteries help us to look forward in hope to the day of the Resurrection, renew us in faith in God's providential care and guidance, and fill us with the true spirit of charity that we may love God and neighbor with undivided hearts.



*A Blessed &
Happy Easter*



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Rite of Election

Bishop to the elect: You bring me great hope

By ELIZABETH CLYONS

TRUMBULL—Three-hundred and forty-eight catechumens and candidates who are preparing for full communion with the Church at Easter were recognized and affirmed at this weekend's Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion ceremony.

The elect, along with their sponsors, family members and

one needs "to wildly trust in the love of God in his mercy...to give up all that we have so that we may be the first and greatest desire of our heart."

Quoting St. Augustine, Bishop Caggiano said that this journey to holiness is one of seeking holy desire. "We want what started out as an ember to become a blazing bonfire of love for Jesus Christ," he said.

"He is the one who can heal our broken hearts," the bishop said.

He encouraged the elect, "It will take your whole life to ever form more deeply with Jesus—and we do it together, don't we?"

"I thank you for addressing the spark that has lit up your life," he said to those soon-to-be brought into further communion with the Church, "please be assured that I am praying for all of you."

"I pray that we will never let the fire in our hearts dim and, God forbid, ever go out," the bishop said, asking all for their prayers, as well.

During the service, each catechumen (non-baptized person) and candidate (those who were baptized but did not receive further sacraments) was invited to come forward and be welcomed by the bishop in an act of recognition and admission.



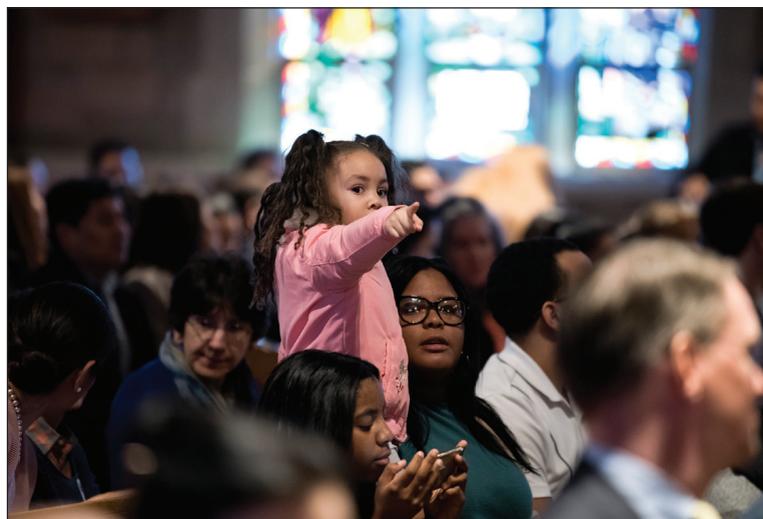
friends filled St. Theresa Church, the largest in the diocese, to near capacity.

The readings were read in both English and Spanish.

In Bishop Frank J. Caggiano's homily, he spoke about Jesus' journey into the desert, which was the Gospel reading.

"Jesus had no need to go into the desert," said the bishop, "and yet He went and surrendered everything to His Father so that you and I might see the path to holiness."

The bishop explained to the gathered that to follow this path,



The bishop thanked RCIA coordinators, catechists, godparents and sponsors, and pastors in attendance.

Before the final blessing, the bishop once again addressed the elect, "This is a time of renewal for the Church. And you, my friends, are the living example of the power of the Holy Spirit in our midst bringing the Church to new life and you bring me great hope."

(For more information regarding RCIA and Adult Formation, contact The Office of Faith Formation at: OfficeofFaithFormation@diobpt.org or call: 203.416.1670.)



Serving Women and Children

Malta House moving to larger facility

NORWALK—Over the past 20 years, Malta House has served more than 600 mothers and babies through its residential program and many more with its community programs. At the end of the year, Malta House 2 will open at a former convent behind All Saints School, which will allow the organization to assist more than 1,500 mothers and babies over the next 20 years.

“We are really excited about the opportunity this will give us,” said Carey Dougherty, executive director. “We often have a waiting list, and sometimes we have to turn people away, which is why we are moving into a larger space where we can grow.”

The project is being made possible through a \$4 million capital campaign, \$3 million of which will pay for renovation of the convent and moving expenses, and \$1 million to establish a capital reserve. For more information or to donate to the Growing the Mission in a New Home campaign, which has received \$3.6 million, contact the campaign office at campaign@maltahouse.org or call 203.857.0088.

Malta House is the only group home for pregnant women over 18 in Fairfield County and one of a limited number of residential programs for parenting mothers and their babies, Dougherty said. Since its doors opened in 1998, it has provided 7,763 nights of shelter, helped bring 345 babies into the world and assisted 319 mothers in getting back on their feet.

“Our goal is to empower women to live independently and provide a better life for themselves and their children,” said Dougherty, who has worked at Malta House since 2017.

The new location will increase residential capacity by 50 percent, offer short-term housing for pregnant women in a crisis situation, provide space for private counseling and group classes, expand on-campus services with community partners, and provide a playground and green space for children. There will be space for a chapel, meeting rooms, offices, dining and kitchen areas, a private residential area on the second floor, a reading room and nursery.

The plans include 15 bedrooms, three of which will be family suites that can accom-



modate a mother and up to two children, which would allow 33 people—15 women and 18 children—to live at the house.

“I always believed that Malta House put some muscle behind our faith regarding the dignity and sanctity of life,” said Michael O’Rourke of Stamford, who founded Malta House in 1995. “It’s one thing to step into the sanctuary of a church and pray for the unborn. We can all comfort each other while railing against the evils of abortion. However, Malta House is where the rubber meets the road, whereby we take the importance of the dignity and sanctity of life and put a pregnant woman’s face to it—helping that woman with all her struggles and fears.”

Dougherty said that many of the pregnant women who come to Malta House are homeless and have never lived independently or have come from “unsafe or fragmented families.” Malta House

regularly receives referrals from hospitals, social service agencies, shelters and programs that will not accept a woman who is pregnant or a new mother.

“One thing that always catches me off guard in this county, where there is so much wealth, is that over 300 babies are born every year to mothers who live below the poverty line, to mothers who are homeless,” Dougherty said. “We believe a mother deserves every opportunity to a life of self-sufficiency and independence. Every baby deserves to be born into a world of safety and love. We are trying to be the family and support network to mothers who need to improve their lives and are looking for a future of independence.”

The residents participate in life skills classes in health, nutrition, parenting and child development and personal finance. Dougherty said Malta House is the only home in the state that offers these

services, and residents have come from as far away as Massachusetts, Hartford and the Bronx.

“We try to provide our mothers all the same things we make sure our own kids know by 18 when they are ready to leave home,” Dougherty said. The house assists them with education, employment, financial literacy, health and nutrition, fitness, spirituality and parenting. There is also free childcare so the mothers can go to school or work.

The average stay is eight months, but it can extend up to 18 months until a mother has saved sufficient money and secured housing.

“Malta House is where the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist converges with the presence of Christ in the women and children we serve,” O’Rourke said. “We lift our women up through education, training and spiritual counseling and introduce them to prayer.

Rather than treating them as ‘neutral poverty stricken pregnant objects’ devoid of virtue, we help them to become moral actors and contributors to the community. We want them to appreciate how and why they will make a difference in this world, especially since they are children of God destined for heaven.”

Dougherty said success is measured by a number of criteria, such as how much money a woman has saved, steady employment, stable housing and the life skills classes she has attended.

There have been many success stories over the past 22 years, she said, and one in particular stands out, which involved a young mother who came to Malta House nine years ago with a five-month-old baby.

“Her boyfriend hurt her badly and she was in the hospital,” Dougherty said. “She couldn’t go back to him and her mother wouldn’t take her in, so she went to the Department of Social Services. They went down the list of all the shelters in the area, but they were either full or could take her but not the baby, which meant she was one step closer to the Department of Children and Families taking her baby to foster care.”

The last call they made was to Malta House, which had an available bed.

“She came to stay with us,” Dougherty said. “She got a job and last year, she started working with us. Today she is living on her own, and her child is in fifth grade. That is what Malta House is all about.” ■

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE FROM PAGE 6

Prayer that can be downloaded and printed for use throughout the day.

Grosso said the resource material on the web page is designed to help the faithful educate themselves on the Coronavirus, practice good personal health habits, and take all necessary precautions issued by health officials.

Among the recommendations listed on the web page:

Anyone who is ill, anyone who suspects they are ill, or anyone who had contact with someone exhibiting flu-like symptoms should refrain from participation in public activities, including Mass. As has always been the

case, if you need to refrain from Sunday Mass due to illness, you are dispensed from the Sunday obligation.

Educate yourself on the Coronavirus, practice good personal health habits, and take all necessary precautions issued by the Center for Disease Control and World Health Organization seriously.

Catholics who visit the site are asked remember to pray for an end to this illness and to keep all those who have died from and who are adversely affected by the Coronavirus in your prayers.

(Visit the diocesan website at: www.bridgeportdiocese.com.) ■

FOOD PANTRIES FROM PAGE 7

Bishop Caggiano offers this prayer: This is a time when we must offer intercessory prayers for all those who have died from this disease, that they may rest in the Lord’s peace. We must pray for consolation for their families and loved ones during their time of sorrow and grief. Let us also pray for those who have been sickened by the virus, that they will soon recover, and for all those who are quarantined and are living alone and in fear. Finally, let us pray that this emergency may pass and that our love for one another will help us to make the right decisions to keep each other safe.

The Diocese of Bridgeport is

continually monitoring the status of the virus in the Fairfield County community, consulting with health care professionals and experts when appropriate.

In response to the growing number of calls and concerns related to the Coronavirus and its impact on liturgical practices, the diocese has produced a special web page to offer the latest news, resources and information.

(People throughout the diocese can visit the website at any time for updates: www.bridgeportdiocese.org/coronavirus-resources-and-information. For more information on Catholic Charities’ programs visit: cfairfield.org.) ■

St. James Parish

'Full of Love and Zeal for the Lord'

By EMILY CLARK

STRATFORD—Father Peter Adamski was installed as the new pastor at St. James Church in Stratford on Sunday, March 1 with the characteristic jubilation of a cheerful choir, crowded pews, and procession of clergy. When the lector addressed the congregation, however, there was something quite uncharacteristic about his greeting: "Welcome to the Installation Mass of Peter Adamski—my dad."

Ordained just eight months ago at age 65, Fr. Adamski—a husband, father and former CEO—entered the priesthood following the death of his wife

Kathy and is now entrusted as the ninth pastor at St. James, committed to serving those he calls his "new family."

"I thank Almighty God for allowing me to be His unworthy servant to the priesthood," said Fr. Adamski, who considered entering the seminary in his 20s. "All my life experiences have shaped me and prepared me to become a priest."

As Bishop Frank J. Caggiano began the Mass, he acknowledged the new pastor, saying, "We gather with great joy and give thanks to God for Father Peter. We pray the spirit will bless you, and we pray for many years of happy and joyful service."

Throughout his homily, Father Adamski referenced the passage from Deuteronomy: "Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord," explaining that we have a desire for the truth and an understanding of who we are and what we were created for. "We are called to love Him," he said, noting society is bombarded by a consumerism mentality. "In return, He will deepen the part of our soul that is hungering not for bread but for the love of God."

Having always admired St. Ignatius Loyola who laid the foundations of self-denial and charity, Father Adamski drew a comparison between himself and the 16th century founder of the Jesuits. "After understanding the vanity of the Earth, he studied for the priesthood even though he was twice as old as the other students," he said. "That's something I can relate to!"

As Bishop Caggiano initiated the Rite of Installation of a Pastor, Father Adamski renewed the promise of his ordination and then invited members of his Pastoral Council and Finance Council to join him near the altar, greeting each one with a smile and a handshake.

"Father Peter, you are called to be a loving father and a shepherd to lead your people to Christ," the bishop said. Then, turning to the congregation, he added, "Allow me to present to you your new pastor." Amid rolling applause, Father Adamski held his hands to his heart and then extended his arms to a congregation which had already fully embraced him.

"There's a renewed energy



here at St. James," said Ruwani Williams, the chair of the Pastoral Council. "Through his relationship with Christ, Father Peter has brought our community together. He has such a rich background and is such a knowledgeable and valuable guide."

That energy exuding from Father Adamski can be seen in the creation of a Children's Choir (which debuted at the Installation Mass), the inclusion of praise and worship music segments to reengage young people in the liturgy, the introduction of Family Masses, and the training of new

altar servers. "I even ordered a banner that says 'Welcome Home! Meet the New Pastor!'" he exclaimed. "Though I am a little atypical, I am full of love and zeal for the Lord."

Before parishioners gathered in the St. James School gym for a luncheon and reception, Bishop Caggiano gave the final blessing, with a special one for this new pastor. "It is a joyful day," he said. "God has blessed you. You may be young to the priesthood, but in addition to being a devoted husband and wonderful father, you have had a priestly heart for your entire life." ■



Joint statement on the cancellation of the Connecticut March for Life

The sponsors of the Connecticut March for Life, with deep regret, have made the difficult decision to cancel the April 15th Connecticut March for Life. This decision was made out of concern for the health of those planning to attend and in line with the Governor's Executive Order #7, which bans large events.

We know many people will be disappointed with the cancellation of the Connecticut March for Life, so we will be exploring options for holding the event at a future date. We are committed to ensuring that the pro-life voice be heard by the Governor and our legislators.

The response to the March was very positive, with many pro-life residents of Connecticut planning to attend. We want to thank everyone who was helping to coordinate getting the message out about the March and who undertook efforts to guarantee a large attendance. We hope to capitalize on that enthusiasm by setting a new date for a 2021 March which will be announced as soon as that decision has been made. Please stay tuned for future announcements. ■

MAGNIFICAT FROM PAGE 9

In 1999, in the basement of Trumbull's Christ the King Church, a small group of women did come, with a shared purpose of growing closer to God. Magnificat's journey, like that of so many of its members, was not without trial, however. While planning events in the group's early years, coordinators faced challenges that tested their fortitude. Becoming an incorporated private association under canonical law, adjusting event plans due to the blackout of 2003, forgoing a con-

ference due to a highway collision, and cancelling a breakfast days before a crippling Nor'easter would test anyone's resolution, but the women of Magnificat persevered.

"Nothing could dampen our enthusiasm, and we count it all as joy," said Fran Karpiej, the first coordinator who remains actively involved today. "And now, we must maintain our course. God has more for us."

For the women who accepted Magnificat's invitation to "come and listen," they saw the

opportunity to join committees of hospitality, music, intercessory prayer, and even tech support, for as Flynn said, "God know our gifts, whatever those gifts may be." They also witnessed through personal stories the dedication of an outreach group rooted in the principles of their Catholic faith, encouraging others to accompany them on the journey.

"We want to spread the good news," said Angotta. "This is a beautiful ministry with a place for everybody." ■

Social Justice Issue

Bill may benefit former inmates

By **DON HARRISON**

On a mid-February evening in Fairfield, two men spoke about their former lives in the crime lane and now, in middle age, have embraced their “clean” lives and serve as volunteer leaders for CONECT’s Clean Slate initiative.

“I’m doing this for all the people like me who have no clue,” Stephen Dougherty told a gathering of more than 50 in St. Anthony of Padua Church’s meeting room.

“I believe in Clean Slate. For me it’s therapeutic,” said Curtis Hudson, who, like Dougherty, now devotes some free time to CONECT (Congregations Organized for a New Connecticut), a collection of churches, synagogues, mosques and civic organizations in New Haven and Fairfield counties that have joined together to take action on social

and economic justice issues.

The February 19 get-together, organized and moderated by Tom Flynn, a St. Anthony’s parishioner and retired Pitney Bowes executive, brought CONECT’s Clean Slate project to the attention of many of the town’s “movers and shakers.”

It is Flynn’s hope that the state legislature will pass a Clean Slate bill, perhaps even this year. Such legislation would expunge the criminal records of men and women who served their sentences and have lived a “clean” life for a set period.

One week after the CONECT meeting at St. Anthony, State Sen. Gary Winfield (D-New Haven) introduced Clean Slate legislation that significantly expands on the bill championed by Gov. Ned Lamont in early February that automatically clears most misdemeanors and many low-level

felonies for those who have served their time and remain conviction-free for seven years.

Winfield, who co-chairs the state senate’s judiciary committee, affirms that the expungement of criminal records ensures that a prison term doesn’t become a life sentence.

Both Dougherty, 56, and Hudson, 60, explained how difficult it was for them to turn their life around when faced with the massive challenges of finding landlords and employers willing to deal with former inmates.

“I’ve got a small company (Easy Solutions Home Repair and Remodeling) and it’s tough to get licensed and make a living,” explained Dougherty, whose work embraces carpentry, electrical and plumbing. “I got out of prison in 1989 after doing several stints, including juvenile. With Clean Slate, I enjoy giving back.”

He’s also trying to secure a par-

don, but the paperwork – an onerous 30-page questionnaire used by the state’s Board of Pardons and Parole—“is so daunting.”

Hudson: “I’ve spent 45 years of my life in prison; it started with a reformatory at age 11. But I’ve been clean for four years, three months, and I live in Section Eight housing in New Haven. One of my mentors got me into Clean Slate. I’ve always been an outgoing person, so I like to do it.”

Flynn, whose outreach activities with wife Joyce through the years appear boundless, is asking Fairfield residents (and others) to encourage their local state officials to support Clean Slate legislation in Hartford.

For Fairfield: State Sen. Tony Hwang, TonyHwang@cga.ct.gov.

State representatives: Laura Devlin,

CURTIS HUDSON (standing) explains how CONECT’s Clean Slate initiative for criminal justice reform has made a significant difference in his life during the Clean Slate meeting held at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Fairfield on February 19. Listening attentively are Stephen Dougherty, like Hudson a Clean Slate volunteer, and Kristen Estabrook, Clean Slate organizer.

ct.gov; Brian Farnen, brian.farnen@housegop.ct.gov; and Cristin McCarthy Vahey, Cristin.McCarthyVahey@cga.ct.gov.

For those who would be interested in lobbying, as part of a small group, for Clean Slate in Hartford, contact Kristen Estabrook at kristen.estabrook@gmail.com.



MARCH 28th OPEN HOUSE HAS BEEN POSTPONED

Cardinal Kung Academy is praying for those suffering from Coronavirus.

Once this health crisis resolves, we look forward to introducing you, in person, to the students, teachers and administrators at Cardinal Kung Academy and to what makes it an exceptional high school.

Follow us on social media for further updates.



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Diocesan Catholic Schools

Catholic Schools respond to Coronavirus

BRIDGEPORT—All diocesan schools and academies will remain closed through Tuesday, March 31, but that date is subject to change based on the decision of civil authorities, according to Dr. Stephen Cheeseman, superintendent of schools.

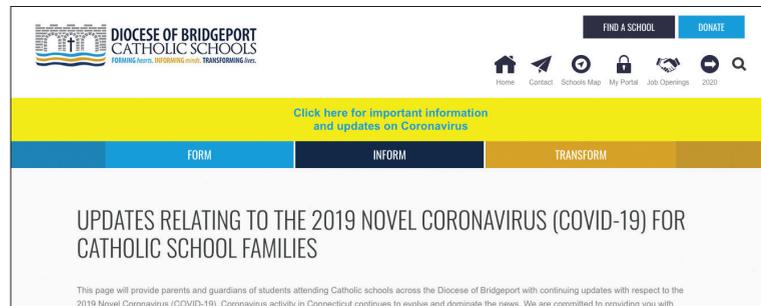
“Schools have launched their distance learning programs to ensure continuity of education, and teachers and staff are working remotely using various technological tools. Virtual office hours and a video help desk have been set up for teachers and parents who need assistance, and each individual school will set times when they will be open to address any student, family and faculty needs,” said Dr.

Cheeseman.

Dr. Cheeseman said he was grateful for the full cooperation of principals, faculty and staff in moving forward with plans to begin remote learning while safeguarding the health of the children and parents.

“I want to take a moment to let you know how much I appreciate your leadership as we set out into these uncharted waters. It is at times like this that I am especially grateful for the collegial spirit that exists among you and I hope that you lean on each other and know that the OSS team is here to support you in any way that we can,” he wrote in a letter to principals.

He said that the introduction



of “Personalized Learning” in diocesan schools over the past two years has better prepared teachers and students for online learning platforms.

Dr. Cheeseman said that in light of recent developments the schools office will continue to review and revise plans.

The public school shutdown

until March 31 ordered by the governor along with the call for social distancing and the fear and anxiety that so many teachers and staff have experienced have led him to expedite the need for teachers to work remotely and not to work at school unless it is necessary.

“I am requesting that principals

move teacher to remote working status as soon as possible. We can use the tech tools available to us for everyone to keep in touch and I would ask that you set a protocol that works for you and your school,” said Cheeseman.

He said if a teacher needs assistance with technology, the diocesan OSS team is here to help.

Each principal may need to establish times when the school is “open” for teachers who may need materials or for assignment pick up and drop off for families.

(For the latest updates on school policies, visit the diocesan Catholic Schools website special coronavirus page: www.dioceseofbridgeportcatholic-schools.com/coronavirus-updates.) ■

Our pastors inspire and offer hope to parishioners

Pastors from all over the Diocese of Bridgeport are issuing pastoral letters to their faithful in this time of trial.

We are pleased to share excerpts from a few.

Do not let your hearts be troubled!

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ. Immediately after the horrific and tragic events on 9/11, a man working in one of the towers that morning barely managed to escape with his life. Covered in debris and ashes, he hopped on a train and returned to his hometown of Weston CT, before New York City was shut down. He didn't go straight to his house but to his church, St. Francis of Assisi, my last parish. There he wept and prayed, both thankful and devastated by the events. After he left the church, the evidence that he was there remained—that is ashen footprints down the center aisle to the foot of the cross.

So too with many others, the terrible events from 9/11, led to a return to God and His Church. Churches were filled with those wanting to pray and find peace. Sunday Mass atten-

dance surged and Confessionals were busy. The events of 9/11 reminded us that God is capable of bringing good even out of the greatest evils—as he did through his own suffering and death on the cross. The sad thing is that the return to God and His Church didn't last long, perhaps only a couple of weeks. The surge in faith ended. For most people life went back to normal—life went on as it did before 9/11.

With the danger of the coronavirus and the drastic changes in our lifestyle now, many are feeling anxious and afraid. Perhaps we know someone with the virus, are fearful for our elderly parents, are separated from loved ones, worried about the economy, or currently losing a good portion of our normal income. It is exactly at this time that Jesus tells us, “Do not let your hearts be troubled, have faith in God and in me.” This change in lifestyle that we are all experiencing at this time, although difficult, presents us with an opportunity to return to God—to pray and deepen our relationship with Him. Our God and His words can comfort and console us like nothing else in this world can.

This virus didn't come from God, nor is he punishing our world, for God is not the author of anything bad or evil. However, he may very well be using this

virus to capture the world's attention—to let us know that we are not in charge, He is. He may want the world to know that He is the one God of us all, we are all his sons and daughters, that He deeply loves us all, and wishes for the world to return to Him. Let us use this time to join in prayer with all the faithful in our world.

Please know that I as your Pastor, am continuing to think of and pray for you in this unusual and trying time. I and Father Ford are offering Mass daily for your protection, health, and peace. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary our Mother, be with you and protect you. May we place our trust in the great mercy and love of our God, a love that knows no bounds or limits.

God Loves you,
Father Michael L. Dunn

Together in Spirit

Please know that you are very much in my thoughts and prayers. Every morning as I do my Holy Hour. Every day as I celebrate Mass alone. Oh, that word “alone.” Yes, restrictions are being placed on us that physically separate us.

But we are together in Spirit! This is the time for us to rely on what has been built right here, on our Church property, over

the years. Some of us, myself included, have spent the past few years helping to build up our Parish Community. Others of you have spent upwards of forty and more years building up our Parish Community. We are the wonderful St. Jude Parish Community! We, the St. Jude Parish Community, have bonds that still connect us, and that will continue to endure and overcome any current restrictions that we are called to live out.

As I am sure that you miss attending Mass in the very Church that many of you gathered rocks to build, and as I am sure that you miss receiving the Eucharist, please know that I am experiencing how much I miss celebrating Mass with you. As you patiently await the next time that you will—Praise God!—be able to receive the Eucharist, I ask that you enter into a prayer experience.

We all have to be creative, to figure out how to the best live out our life as a parish family, during this time of restrictions.

Sincerely, Father Henry Hoffman

Our Lady, Salvation of the Roman people

“I thought I would give you a closer view of the image I mentioned at the end of the Rosary tonight. It is a copy of the miraculous image of Our Lady called

“Salus Populi Romani” or the Salvation of the Roman People. The original is in a side chapel of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major in Rome. The image got its name because in the 6th century Pope Gregory I carried the icon in procession through the streets of Rome begging the Virgin to end a plague. Our Lady granted the prayers of the Holy Father and the people of Rome. Since then the image has become the center of Marian devotion in the Eternal City.

It was to this same church that Pope Francis went in pilgrimage yesterday to pray before Salus Populi Romani to protect Rome, Italy and the rest of the world.

I purchased this copy shortly after my ordination. I had the privilege of offering Mass before the sacred image and when I left the basilica some religious sisters across the street had this hand-painted copy in the window. I purchased it and took it back into the Church to bless on the same altar where the original hangs.

Let us continue to beg the Mother of God who is our mother as well, to protect us from harm and bring us closer to her Son!”

God bless you and protect you,

Father La Pastina ■

Joining A Pilgrimage

Exploring the Universal

By PAT HENNESSY

Ornate churches and spare, plain churches. Ancient churches and churches so achingly modern they set your teeth on edge. When I joined a Pilgrimage Tour to Fatima, Santiago de Compostela and Lourdes, I discovered so much more than I expected.

I had read and edited articles on pilgrimage tours when I was working for Fairfield County Catholic in the diocesan Communications Office. Now it was my turn. This one was headed by Father Arthur Mollenhauer, pastor of St. James Parish in Stratford. He was assisted by Sharon MacKnight of St. Mary Parish in Stamford, working through Elite Travel.

Although Father Arthur is an experienced traveler and had led several pilgrimages, he'd never been to Portugal or Spain. This was a new experience for him, which made him a companion in the exploration of faith for the 23 of us in the group.

The three centerpiece of our trip were the Marian shrines of Fatima and Lourdes, and the tomb of St. James the Apostle in Santiago de Compostela in Spain. You would think that, with those significant destinations, any other locations would be of minor interest. But a pilgrimage is a journey of discovery; much of its richness comes from sidelights along the path.

During our trip we explored churches that evoked wonder and amazement at their elaborate gold-encrusted altars and the breathtaking colors of their stained glass. But none of these spoke to me like the altar in a totally unfamiliar location. This was the sanctuary of Bom Jesus do Monte (Good Jesus of the Mountain) in northern Portugal. What a "trip" it was going there: we boarded a kind of water-powered streetcar, and the cascade from a mountain stream propelled us to the mountaintop.

As in virtually every Catholic church, the crucified Jesus hung above the central altar. But at Bom Jesus he was joined by similar-sized terra cotta figurines of a sorrowing Mary and St. John, the thieves on either side of him and the Roman Centurion bracing to thrust a spear into his side. Below his feet on the hillside sprawled a pair of soldiers rolling dice for his cloak, indifferent

to the suffering figure above them.

It was like a Neapolitan Nativity scene, with all the realistic figures going about their lives around the birth of the baby Jesus. But this was a realistic portrayal of the sacrifice of Jesus, brought to vibrant life above the altar where, every day, Catholics receive his body and blood in the sacrifice of the Mass.

Just as at this unexpected sanctuary, at every stop on our pilgrimage we experienced new insights into the life of our faith. The Cathedral of Santiago de

wounds, discovered a love of God. Our group was alone in his bedroom, marveling at this transformation from soldier in battle to warrior for Christ.

In contrast to that quiet experience, on our last Sunday together, Father celebrated an international multilingual Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Montserrat, Spain's famous Black Virgin. We joined voices from around the world in prayer as we were led through the Eucharist to become the Body of Christ.

The highlight of both Fatima and Lourdes was a candlelight Rosary and procession held each evening. At both shrines, every decade of the Rosary was led in a different language, with pilgrims responding in their own. I know I heard Arabic, and possibly Chinese. We heard and saw and felt and lived the truth that each flickering candle held aloft in the darkness was part of the universal Church.

At Lourdes, the Rosary Procession flowed along the banks of a river, the stream of our flickering candles led by a lighted cross. We crossed a bridge over the dark water, and our individual lights made a different kind of river in the darkness, a river of faith. We came because Mary called to our hearts, but the memory filling my mind was of all of us, each fragile flickering light of faith, following the cross of Christ.

Anchored by daily Mass in

"At Lourdes, the Rosary Procession flowed along the banks of a river, the stream of our flickering candles led by a lighted cross."

Compostela in the northernmost corner of Spain is the reputed burial place of St. James the Apostle. Pilgrims have walked the demanding Way of St. James (El Camino) since the area was reconquered from Moorish overlords more than a thousand years ago.

On the chill, rainy day we visited, we saw bunches of fatigued, soaked, muddy, 21st century pilgrims stride into the plaza in front of the cathedral's doors. Coming from uncounted different countries, they were living proof that our Church is universal in time as well as space. It spans the centuries from the figure of St. James seated with a pilgrim's staff above the cathedral's doors to the young pilgrim entering the plaza, waving aloft her walking sticks in exuberance at having completed El Camino.

Comparison and contrast shaped our journey and widened our minds. Along our way, we experienced both the intimate and worldwide expression of faith.

On the day we traveled from Spain to France, we stopped at the family home of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Father Arthur celebrated Mass in the very room where St. Ignatius, recovering from war



ORNATE SPLENDOR—Working in gold, the most renowned craftsmen of their time designed this altarpiece in the Cathedral of Burgos.

gray stone chapels or in churches with gold-encrusted altars, our pilgrimage of discovery revealed a faith reaching through the centuries and spanning the globe.

Every day's experience, every unique expression of faith, led us to one destination: to the cross and to Jesus Christ, our savior, uniting us all.

The Cathedral Parish

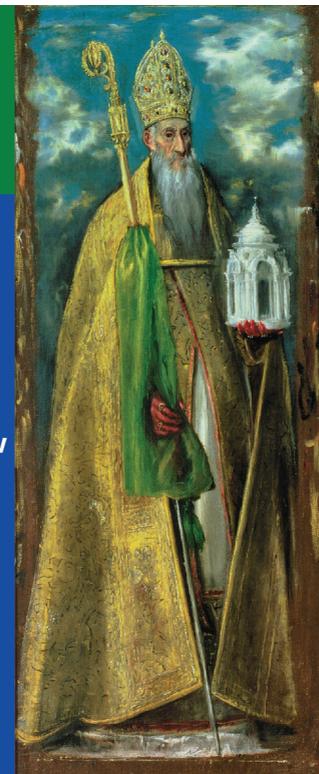
St. Augustine Cathedral
399 Washington Avenue
203.368.6777 www.thecathedralparish.org

St. Patrick Church
851 North Avenue

Dear Friends in the Diocese of Bridgeport,

The Cathedral Parish joins you in prayer and daily offers the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and other prayers in praise and gratitude to the Lord and in petition for His assistance and guidance in these difficult times. While there are challenges, there are opportunities also for new ways of joining in prayer and formation as a larger community. I invite you to visit our website for some of these opportunities.

Fr. Michael P. Novajosky
Rector of St. Augustine Cathedral & Pastor of The Cathedral Parish
St. Augustine, Patron of the Diocese of Bridgeport, pray for us.



Foundations in Faith

John Paul II Fund welcomes fresh ideas

By MEG McCaffrey

BRIDGEPORT—Applications are now open for Churches and Parishes in the Diocese of Bridgeport to apply for funding for their religious education, youth ministry and faith formation programs.

Kelly Weldon, director of Foundations in Faith, which was established last year through the generosity of those who donated to the “We Stand With Christ” capital campaign,

“If you have an idea that will spark some energy into your religious education or youth ministry program, we want to hear from you.”

The application form can be found on the Foundations in Faith

website www.foundationsinfaith.org. Applications must be submitted online with the project budget no later than April 2, 2020.

Weldon said The Saint John Paul II Fund grants that have been awarded so far speak to Foundations in Faith’s mission to support and transform pastoral ministries in the Diocese of Bridgeport.

“The projects are making a difference at many parishes, and the endeavors that have been funded involve people of all ages,” she said.

The youth group at St. Theresa Church in Trumbull recently led a project to support the “Binky Patrol” to provide blankets to ill and traumatized children in the greater Bridgeport area.

At “Nightfever,” an innovative event at St. John’s in downtown Stamford, a young adult group there welcomed passersby to light candles and to gather together in prayer. And at Saint Peter Parish in Danbury, a faith-centered group was created especially for kids, to help them escape the everyday stress in their lives and to experience God more deeply.

“You have an opportunity to bring together people, especially the youth at your parish, to brainstorm ways to reinvigorate, change up, try out new ways to live and learn our faith,” said Kelly Weldon, director of Foundations in Faith. “We encourage you to be creative and have fun along the way with imagining your ideas.”



ART WITH SENIORS—Reaching out to the elderly took on a creative twist with the Saint Thomas the Apostle Church in Norwalk organized by the RISE Youth Group Ministry. The kids helped seniors to discover the joy of painting.

The Saint John Paul II Fund grants that have been awarded so far speak to Foundations in Faith’s mission to support and transform pastoral ministries in the Diocese of Bridgeport.

The projects are making a difference at many parishes, and the endeavors that have been funded involve people of all ages.

For example, Our Lady of Peace Church in Stratford is producing live theater through a Catholic perspective thanks to being awarded funds. The parish received an initial grant of \$4,000 to create a Catholic theater group, ‘Our Lives Original Players,’ to foster the parish’s faith formation. Led largely by young people, the group plans to put on a play each summer, which they will write and produce.

Father Nicholas Pavia, pastor of the church, said, “The young people will do the imagining, thinking and writing of an original script from the following foundational sources—the Bible, the Catechism, the lives of the saints, the parish history.”

Father Pavia, who fell in love with theater as a boy while a member of a group at Sacred Heart Stamford, said that since the grant was awarded last year, several story ideas have been generated, and a team of actors, writers and support staff is being built.

The genius of this theater group will come from its main source, which is the memories, stories and dreams and challenges of the parishioners, Father Pavia added. “The originality of the material will keep it focused, honest, exciting, and relevant to our parish life.”

Like ‘Our Lives Original Players,’ the Nursing Home ART project organized by the RISE

Youth Group Ministry at Saint Thomas the Apostle Church in Norwalk is an arts-based and inclusive endeavor.

“To be inclusive is a major piece of pastoral care, which focuses on reaching out to the elderly and people with special needs,” said Weldon. “This is one of our goals with awarding these grants.”

Intended for residents in nursing homes, the project’s overall mission is to introduce the joy of painting and self-expression to the elderly with the help of the parish’s youth group.

So far, about a dozen residents of The Marvin nursing home in Norwalk attend the monthly painting classes the youth group coordinates, and a rotating group of members assist. An initial grant of \$3,000 helps cover costs of paint and canvases, among other supplies. Each class has a theme and features Cecy Gillen, an artist, sketching a couple of objects, and residents then choose one to paint.

“A great connection between the senior citizens and the kids is growing,” said Gillen, who is also the RISE Youth Group coordinator. “The kindness and empathy of the kids is moving to see. They are so soft and gentle with the seniors.”

According to Kelly Weldon, “Cecy and Father Pavia are indeed changing the fabric of faith formation. Sometimes you need to shake it up, do something different. These are inclusive projects; they are also creating and growing a community of faith. The ARTS are the hook here and all involved, especially our youth are excited and bringing friends.”

(To learn more about other grant recipients, please visit: www.foundationsinfaith.org.)

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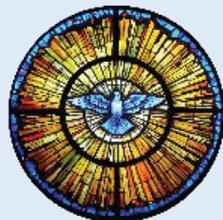
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Trains, Automobiles...What's Next? Planes?



Just as our Lenten season will come to an end, and the dawn of the blessed Resurrection will come on Easter Sunday, so too will an end come to this pandemic.

We must all remain steadfast in our faith and hope in Jesus Christ, who told us that he will be with us to the end of the age.



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Foundations in Education

Spring Gala postponed until Fall 2020

BRIDGEPORT—Foundations in Education needs your help in support of the more than 1,400 students receiving tuition assistance.

In light of the recent state of emergency declaration by Governor Ned Lamont, the guidance by the Centers for Disease control and Prevention and local public health departments, Foundations in Education is postponing their 2020 Annual Spring Gala. Like many non-profits in the area, the decision was made due to growing concerns regarding the spread of COVID-19. This necessary course of action creates a significant shortfall in Foundations In Education's revenue for the year.

The Annual Spring Gala is an essential fundraising event raising close to \$1,000,000 annually that helps pay for the \$2,800,000 awarded in current year tuition assistance. The cancellation of this event places a significant



FOUNDATIONS IN EDUCATION GALA COMMITTEE

financial strain on Foundations and requires them to seek alternate sources of funding from now until the close of our fiscal year, June 30.

Foundations in Education extends a plea to all to help by

making a donation so as to minimize this shortfall in an effort to replace the April event revenue through an online giving campaign.

Executive Director Holly Doherty-Lemoine stated, "We

need the help of everyone in our extended community to meet the needs of our students and schools. We have to be far more aggressive and creative in our outreach and appeal for contributions in the absence of the Gala.

We hope that readers of the *Fairfield County Catholic* will be able to make a donation."

The Foundation asks readers to forward this appeal to family and friends. Lemoine pleaded, "Please help us spread the word to foundations or corporations that are inclined to give support to education and students; or share this with potential donors and others to help solicit support on behalf of Foundations in Education. We are a separate 501c3 and so typically not excluded by foundations or corporations who otherwise may not support religious organizations."

"Supporters of Catholic Education are a dedicated and faithful community and I am confident that we will rally in support of our students, teachers and schools," Lemoine added. "Our staff is here to help."

(Visit www.foundationsineducation.org to make a donation or to learn more, and please remember, our children are worth it!) ■

Foundations announces two board members

BRIDGEPORT—Foundations in Education is pleased to announce the appointment of two new members to its Board of Trustees.

Joining the Board are Timothy FitzPatrick of Darien and Jennifer Sinclair St. Victor-de Pinho of Ridgefield.

"We are delighted to welcome Jen and Tim to our Board and

we are grateful to them for the expertise and talent they will bring to the table," said Holly Doherty-Lemoine, executive director of Foundations in Education. "They share our values and hopes for our students and I trust they will work diligently on their behalf and make great contributions to the work of the Foundation."

"We are delighted to welcome Jen and Tim to our Board and we are grateful to them for the expertise and talent they will bring to the table."

Tim FitzPatrick has served on the Foundations in Education Finance Committee since 2017. He is Chief Investment Officer for Parsons & Whittemore in Rye Brook, N.Y. and Portfolio

Manager at The Whittemore Collection, Ltd.

Prior to joining Parsons & Whittemore, Tim served as a Leveraged Finance Trader

at The Seaport Group and Morgan Stanley in New York. Tim received his bachelor of arts degree from Georgetown University and his master of business administration from the University of Chicago.

Jennifer Sinclair St. Victor-de Pinho volunteers on the Foundations in Education Gala Committee and is a former mem-

ber of the Core Management Team at Bridgewater Associates. Prior to Bridgewater, Jen served at GE Capital Americas where she worked on Debt Capital Market matters and served as the Tax Director for BD (Mergers and Acquisitions). Prior to GE, Jen was at UBS AG covering Credit Fixed Income US tax matters globally. Jen received her undergraduate degree from Haverford College in Pennsylvania, her Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center in Washington D.C. and her masters in tax law from New York University.

Foundations in Education is the Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano's vision to support the Diocese of Bridgeport's ongoing mission to advance Catholic education in Fairfield County. The primary purpose of this non-profit initiative is to support Catholic education by providing tuition assistance, grants that promote classroom innovation and professional leadership development and other education-based programs.

Board chair, Tom McNerney,



TIMOTHY FITZPATRICK



JENNIFER SINCLAIR
ST. VICTOR-DE PINHO

said of the newest board members: "We are pleased and fortunate to be able to add the talents of Jen and Tim to the very important work that the Foundation does on behalf of the more than seven thousand students in our diocesan schools."

The two new members join the existing Board of Trustees: Chair Tom McNerney, David Cappiello, George Coleman, R. Bradford Evans, Michael

Hanlon, Lawrence Kudlow, Leslie Lopez, Andrea Maldon, Anne McCrory, Dr. Julia McNamara, Michele Mitola, Joseph Purcell, Bernard Reidy, Gerard Robilotti, Robert Scinto, Michael Shea, Sr. Mary Grace Walsh, and Holly Doherty-Lemoine, ex officio.

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

We Stand With Christ

WE STAND WITH CHRIST FROM PAGE 8

the parishes, while \$9 million was distributed to the foundations. All available funds will continue to be distributed on a quarterly basis, according to Robert O'Brien, capital campaign director.

O'Brien stressed the importance of the redemption phase, which entails collecting donations over the next five years and ensuring the pledges are fulfilled so funds can be given to the parishes and foundations. Outstanding pledges as of December 31, 2019 total approximately \$61 million.

Patricia Hansen, Director of Development Operations, said the campaign office has set up a system to make payments. If donors fulfill their pledges electronically, the campaign will save costs on printing, postage and processing fees. In addition, donors may choose the frequency and mode of their reminders to make payments. Donors should visit Givecentral.org/wswc to set up automatic online payments by credit card or direct debit, Hansen said.

Hansen pointed to renovation projects currently underway at St. Philip Church in Norwalk and St. Michael the Archangel Church in Greenwich as examples of the necessary work being done to meet the needs of parishes for

future generations.

Lay-governed foundations

The We Stand With Christ campaign is led by Bishop Caggiano and a 26-member executive committee co-chaired by Brian Young of New Canaan and Father Reggie Norman of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Wilton, with the support of priests, deacons, religious and lay leaders.

We Stand With Christ, Inc. is governed by an independent lay board, which is responsible for monitoring all the activity of the capital campaign and approval for all campaign distributions. The three diocesan foundations that will receive funds from the campaign are Foundations in Education, Foundations in Faith and Foundations in Charity, which are also governed by independent lay boards

The independent lay boards, which have nearly 40 trustees, are committed to overseeing the funds entrusted to them, Bishop Caggiano said. He emphasized the importance of lay leadership because of their professional expertise, along with their commitment to serve the Church and further its mission in Fairfield County.

Foundations in Education has as its goal the transformation of the Diocese's Catholic schools

through scholarships and faculty innovation and leadership grants. Last year, Foundations in Education awarded more than \$2.7 million to 1,430 students in 20 Catholic elementary schools in Fairfield County. In addition, it awarded \$150,000 in innovation and leadership grants.

"With the creation of the endowment, which the We Stand With Christ campaign pledge fulfillment promises, today's donors are part of a legacy to transform the lives of the students and teachers in Diocese of Bridgeport schools," said Holly Doherty-Lemoine, executive director. "I am reminded that 'It takes a village to raise a child.' Our village of campaign supporters has contributed generously and in so doing, assures an academically excellent and values-based Catholic education will be available to families who choose it, for years to come. Thank you to the donors of the capital campaign for your foresight and commitment to Catholic Education."

Foundations in Faith was established to further the diocese's mission to support its pastoral ministries and programs in religious education, evangelization, and support for priests, deacons and seminarians, along with special-needs ministries.

"Foundations in Faith is ush-

ering in a grassroots revitalization of pastoral care ministries," said Kelly Weldon, assistant to the chairperson. "It is spinning a spiritual thread that aims to connect people in the pews to their everyday journey as living, breathing disciples of Jesus Christ. Our Catholic community is strong. We just weave it together, support each other, collaborate and build upon the many established grace-filled ministries. If we work in silos, then there is often silence. If we work in collaboration, we amplify the Good News!"

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

Foundations in Charity will take the fundraising pressure off of Catholic Charities and free up directors of the various programs to concentrate on providing services and administration, said Al Barber, executive director. It will also provide the impetus for new programs for Catholic Charities of Fairfield County, which is one of the largest private non-profit human services providers in Connecticut, with 30 programs

that offer food, housing, behavioral health, adoption, immigration and family support services to the needy and vulnerable of all faiths.

"We Stand With Christ is providing the resources to launch Foundations in Charity, which lets us provide the works of mercy across Fairfield County and serve the needy with food, housing, mental health counseling, childhood education and life," he said.

Long-term needs vs. day-to-day expenses

Bishop Caggiano has also stressed the importance of the Renew 2020 Annual Catholic Appeal, which funds the day-to-day expenses of diocesan programs that the capital campaign does not provide for, such as vocations, retirement for priests and initiatives that provide nutrition, housing and counseling for the poor and needy. The \$9 million campaign goal is almost \$1 million less than last year.

"As successful as the We Stand With Christ campaign was, our needs in ministry will always demand generosity from all of us on an annual basis," he said. "Those needs continue to grow and will never totally go away."

(For more information about the campaign and to view Bishop Caggiano's video, visit westandwithchrist.org.)

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Queen of Clergy Volunteer retires at age 90

By SHARON VARIAN

STAMFORD—William (Don) McKean has been a volunteer

office was located in a trailer.

Under the direction of Vickey Hickey, administrator of the residence for retired priests, Don

friendships he developed with the priests and staff. Throughout his time there, keeping the faith and spirit of the residents, Don always



at the Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of the Clergy Residence for over 20 years. Don has been connected with Queen of the Clergy even before the building was completed during the early days of construction when the

began his three day a week journey to Stamford from Danbury, where he has been a devout member of Saint Joseph Parish for over 45 years.

On Friday, January 28, 2000, when the first group of residents moved in, Don was there with a smile and the reassurance of a welcome to make the priests feel at home in their new surroundings.

Over the years, Don's responsibilities have included handyman odd jobs, assisting with various administrative duties, and/or just about anything that he could do to help with what needed to be done.

However, his favorite part and most treasured memories are the amazing relationships and

took the time to listen, talk, and offer a helping hand. You see, I know what an important, valued, and rewarding part of his life this place has meant because, as his daughter, my family and I have listened to the stories and experiences that have given him such enjoyment and pleasure and enriched his life.

A tough decision at the age of 90, Don decided it was time for him to retire. He was honored with a retirement/birthday luncheon. I'm sure all who know Don will agree that the Queen of the Clergy was blessed to have such a dedicated and kind-hearted soul for so many years.

He will truly be missed!
(Sharon Varian teaches math at St. Joseph School in Danbury.) ■

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Pray for us, loving Mother,
and gain for our nation and world,
and for all our families and loved ones,
the protection of your holy angels,
that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted,
we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.
Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,
wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing,
teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind.
Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence,
knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother,
health of the sick and cause of our joy.

Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,
keep us in the embrace of your arms,
help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus.
Amen.



"Return to me
with all your hearts"

Sports

Fairfield U bids adieu to Alumni Hall

By **DON HARRISON**

FAIRFIELD—Alumni Hall served as the principal home of Fairfield University men's basketball for most of the past 60 seasons. But don't be fooled by these bookend defeats: In the opening game on December 5, 1959, the Stags were upended by a strong Holy Cross team, 72-53, and in the finale on March 1, they bowed to MAAC rival Rider, 65-51.

In between, happy memories outnumbered disappointments, Fairfield victories exceeded Fairfield defeats, and the majority of outstanding Stags players exhibited their skills in this small campus facility.

It seemed fitting that the man generally considered Fairfield's greatest player, Joe DeSantis, was seated at courtside for the climax, albeit in his role as color commentator for the ESPN telecast.

"This is an emotional time and it made me think about all the gym and the school have meant to me," he said. "I came here as a C student (from St. Nicholas of Tolentine High School in the Bronx, where he was an All-New York City selection) and I felt like I didn't belong. But I guess I became pretty popular on campus."

An understatement. A 6-foot-2 guard with a mop of hair, DeSantis could score points (1,916) and collect assists (667) in bunches, and his dribbling broke many an opponent's press. Across four seasons, he was the principal reason for Coach Fred Barakat's teams being virtually



LANDON TALIAFERRO, THE STAGS' senior guard from Boulder, Colorado, drives past a Rider defender in the final men's basketball game in Alumni Hall on March 1. Fairfield lost, 65-51. Taliaferro set a school record with 10 three-point field goals in a nationally televised 67-62 win over Texas A&M in the Orlando (Fla.) Invitational on December 1.

unbeatable at home—49 wins, just six losses. The DeSantis-led 1977-78 Stags posted a lustrous 22-5 record and gained berths in the ECAC New England Tournament and the National Invitation Tournament.

In halftime ceremonies at the Alumni Hall finale, DeSantis joined several other former Fairfield stars on the George Bisacca Court, including Jack O'Connell '55, passing wizard John Ryan '74, Ray Kelly '75, Ed Golden '87 and Troy Bradford

'89, as well as former coach Mitch Buonaguro, who directed the Stags to their first two NCAA

Tournaments in Division-I competition, 1986 and '87.

Jim Hessel, co-captain of the Stags' 1969-70 squad, who was also among the 2,321 fans in attendance, had mixed feelings that afternoon. "It may sound corny, but I actually shed a tear at the game today," he said. "I remember vividly the first time I stepped on the court at Alumni Hall...nothing but great memories of a very special era. Great teammates and opponents. The Bisacca era."

Dr. Jerry Hemenway, a retired Fairfield pediatrician, has a multitude of memories of Alumni Hall, beginning with his student years at Fairfield Prep and continuing through his undergraduate days at the university (Class of '65) to the present.

"From my classroom in Berchmans Hall, I could see the construction going on," he explained. "It was a huge, a cavern, they were always pumping water out."

"I was so impressed with the arches. At the time of the construction, they said there were only two other buildings in the country with similar arches."

A multitude of outstanding

opposing players challenged the Stags in Alumni Hall... Jimmy Walker, Ernie DiGregorio, Marvin Barnes, Johnny Egan, Lionel Simmons, Rik Smits, Ronnie Perry, Norm Van Lier, Tony Hanson, John Bagley and more. And the list of notable visiting coaches included Mike Krzyzewski, Jim Calhoun, John Thompson, Rollie Massimino, Jim Valvano, Bob Cousy, Joe Mullaney, Dave Gavitt, Digger Phelps and Bill Raftery.

Alumni Hall was also the site for commencement and other university-related activities, and it served as a venue for concerts that featured Tony Bennett, Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, Chuck Berry, Ray Charles, Tony Orlando, the Beach Boys and, more recently, John Legend.

Alumni Hall's successor, the \$45 million, 3,500-seat Arena and Convocation Center, will be erected at the same site and is scheduled to open in fall 2021. So next season's Stags men's and women's basketball teams will play their home games at Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport, which has served as the principal locale for Fairfield hoops since 2001. ■

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Let's Sing

Coming Home Concert brings the crowd to their feet

By ELIZABETH CLYONS

FAIRFIELD—St. Louis Jesuits members Tim Manion, Dan Schutte and Roc O'Connor, SJ played to a packed house on Sunday at the Quick Center. People of all ages clapped their hands and sang along to an array of their beautiful and much loved hymns.



"It's almost like being on a pilgrimage, said Vic Eng, director of communications at St. Jude Parish in Monroe of the way that the men provided a reflection along with each song they sang.

"In the midst of this world so divided, so confusing, so filled with your Holy Spirit—let's sing!" prayed O'Connor at the beginning of the concert.

The St. Louis Jesuits sang crowd favorites including, "Here I Am Lord," "The Cry of the Poor," "These Alone Are Enough," "City of God," "Be Not Afraid" and "Beyond the Moon and Stars."

Roc O'Connor, SJ spoke about how challenging it was to sing "The Cry of the Poor," saying, "Lord, you hear the cry of

the poor, I'm too busy...hearing these words spoken to me in my poverty is even harder to hear... it opens my mind and heart a bit more to hear the cry of the poor...how do we sing and hear this today?"

Before "These Alone Are Enough," which is based on St. Ignatius' Suscipe prayer, Dan Schutte said, "rather than feeling that life is taking all that we love away from us, we become the active ones...trusting there is a mysterious love at the end of all that."

"To be able to do what we love almost the most in life and to be able to share it with others and bring joy to others is almost too good to be true," Schutte reflected on the experience of

being able to share their music with the crowd.

"They've grown to be something none of us planned them to be," said Manion of the 40 years of history between all the gathered and these songs. "Sitting around on Mondays, talking about what we were going to sing on Sunday...these are working songs, maybe that's why they work for us," he said.

"These are the hymns we always sang growing up," said Fran Freer, reminiscing on looking in the hymnals and seeing the names of the men on stage.

The concert was made all the more beautiful with the addition of the St. Anthony of Padua

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

Death of Francis Lori, 98

BRIDGEPORT—It is with great sadness that the Diocese of Bridgeport has learned of the passing of Francis Lori, the father of Archbishop William Lori, fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Bridgeport, at the age of 98.



Bishop Frank J. Caggiano has asked that all the faithful throughout the Diocese of Bridgeport pray for the repose of the Soul of Francis Lori, and for the consolation of Archbishop Lori and his entire family.

Francis Lori died on February 24 in Indiana, surrounded by the archbishop and other members of his family. He had been battling pneumonia.

Francis Lori served his country on a U.S. Navy ship that ferried ammunition to the Battle of Okinawa. After World War II, he married Margaret (née Caradonna); the couple celebrated their 73rd wedding anniversary in January. The archbishop's father spent 38 years with AT&T as a lineman, telephone installer, foreman and equipment manager.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Volunteers of America, Mid-States, 2676 Charlestown Road, Suite #11, New Albany, IN, 47150.

DECEASED CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT MARCH 22—APRIL 25

MARCH		
24	Rev. John Baran.....	2018
	Rev. Jon C. Bokron.....	1993
25	Rev. J. Clifford Grisé	2017
26	Rev. Andrew Marus.....	2018
27	Rev. Bertrand E. Parent.....	1973
30	Msgr. Patrick F. Donnelly	1993

APRIL		
2	Rev. Richard R. Dunn.....	1999
3	Rev. Francis C. Metro	1957
4	Rev. David W. Howell.....	2013
	Msgr. John F. Jazowski.....	2010
5	Rev. Hugh F. Gallagher	1980
7	Rev. Stephen E. Opra.....	1992
8	Rev. Joseph V. Kazlauskas.....	1968
	Rev. Edward M. Horan.....	1978
9	Rev. John A. MacNeil.....	1994
	Rev. Frederick Saviano.....	2016
12	Rev. Emidio O. Gregori	2016
13	Msgr. Henry M. Callahan.....	1956
	Deacon Harold Lynch.....	2016
14	Rev. Walter J. McCarthy.....	1968
	Rev. William J. Fletcher.....	1988
	Msgr. Edward D. Halloran.....	2001
16	Rev. Edwin F. Agonis, O.F.M.Conv.	1998
17	Rev. Robert J. Usenza	2016
18	Rev. John E. Hanning.....	1959
19	Rev. Philip J. O'Farrell.....	1992
20	Rev. Martin J. O'Connor.....	1988
23	Rev. Vincent P. Bodnar.....	1988
25	Msgr. William A. Nagle.....	2013

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Nuestra Voz

Música religiosa del Perú en el Altar Mayor

POR MARICARMEN GODOY

STAMFORD—Un nutrido grupo de feligreses se juntaron en la iglesia de Saint Mary para escuchar en concierto al Coro de la Universidad de Connecticut asociados en el “Collegium Musicum” (música temprana), quienes cantaron temas sacros en quechua, castellano e inglés de la época colonial del Perú, Haití, España y los Estados Unidos.

Para Eric Rice, decano de la Escuela de Música de la Universidad de Connecticut, departamento de la Facultad de Bellas Artes, montar el repertorio religioso de música temprana del Perú y Haití fue el resultado de una investigación dada por la Universidad de Connecticut en cuanto al aumento de la población migrante al Estado. Reflexión que fue secundada por su colega el Dr. Jamie Spillane, quien “calentó” las voces de los alumnos y dirigió varios temas del repertorio del concierto.

“El Perú, luego de los puertorriqueños, se ubica como la población número uno en Connecticut y como la segunda fuerza migrante en Stamford solo precedida por los guatemaltecos”, repuso el Dr. Rice.

Mientras los jóvenes estudiantes cantaban en el Altar Mayor de Saint Mary, en una de las bancas estaba sentado el Padre Gustavo Falla, párroco de la iglesia, él, a manera de júbilo sonreía y de cuando en cuando grababa uno a uno de los cánticos sacros. “Cuando el Dr. Rice me escribió con el ofrecimiento de traer su coro a la iglesia me llené de gran ilusión no solo porque amo la música coral sino porque él fue claro en que incluirían piezas de gran valor histórico y cultural para nuestra comunidad iberoamericana. Fue muy fácil aceptar su ofrecimiento”, repuso el P. Falla.

Karla Marín, violinista peruana, directora del Coro de Saint Mary, junto a sus alumnos, ocupaba las primeras bancas y tenía la mirada fija en el Altar Mayor escuchaba con atención cada uno de los cánticos de la agrupación de música temprana, mientras el Coro hacía lo suyo en el escenario (Altar Mayor).

“Buenas noches, la pieza que acaban de escuchar fue impresa

en Lima en 1631 y es la primera pieza de música polifónica impresa en las Américas. La existencia de un texto cristiano en quechua muestra la compleja relación entre los españoles y los pueblos nativos en el Perú colonial. El texto es celebrativo, incluso jubiloso—y sin embargo la música es solemne”, dijo Karla Chávez, una joven estudiante de UCONN, nacida en Connecticut de padres ecuatorianos de primera generación de Morona Santiago, una región oriental que desde hace más de veinte años sus habitantes se movieron hacia el Estado.

A la canción en quechua, le siguieron tres temas de música importada de España compuestos por Tomás Luis de Victoria, el compositor español más célebre del siglo dieciséis. La primera obra, Jesu Dulcis Memoria, es posible que no fuera de Victoria, pero está atribuida a él; se trata de una invitación a la alegría y la dulzura que solo pueden proceder del amor de Dios. La segunda es O Magnum Mysterium de Victoria, es su motete cuyo texto describe el misterio del nacimiento de Jesús entre animales.

Victoria, también compuso una misa basada en este motete y el Coro interpretó el Gloria de



LA FELIGRESÍA PERUANA de la parroquia Santa María no cabía del orgullo al escuchar con atención y emoción la música de su país que se cantó en la época de la Colonia. Amparo Albuja, fue una de las asistentes, que junto a su familia no dejó de aplaudir emocionada cada vez que cantaba el coro.

esa misa para concluir esta sección.

Las siguientes dos piezas cantadas fueron de finales del siglo veinte y muestran el trabajo de compositores contemporáneos que emplean técnicas modernas para expresar algunos de los mismos misterios que expresaron los compositores renacentistas. O Magnum Mysterium de Javier Busto, un médico español convertido en compositor, emplea técnicas aleatorias para coordinar

las voces en ciertas secciones, lo cual produce un efecto notable.

In paradisum del compositor estadounidense Edwin Fissinger es un ajuste de un texto procedente de la misa de Réquiem que recuerda a las melodías del canto gregoriano, pero hace uso de armonías modernas.

Luego siguieron las tradiciones de la diáspora africana. Wangol, un tema “negro”, con un arreglo de una canción tradicional haitiana que interpela al espíritu vudú

Wangol, señalando que va a marcharse y el país va a cambiar.

Seguidamente, interpretaron un arreglo de la canción de Lead Belly Bring me Little Water, Silvy, que pertenece a la tradición afro-americana; arreglo que incluyó percusión corporal como parte de ciertas tradiciones musicales africano-americanas, concluyendo esa sección con el arreglo de H.T. Burleigh de Deep River, un negro espiritual.

Las próximas dos piezas interpretadas fueron de la época del Renacimiento español, invitando a la feligresía a pensar en el modo en que fueron utilizadas en la América colonial. Todo cuanto pudo dar Francisco Guerrero es un villancico que muestra que no toda la síncopa (ritmo) procede de África, el Caribe y Latinoamérica, sino también hubo ríto español.

El tema cantado fue Nigra sum de Victoria, un motete florido con texto del Cantar de los Cantares, compuesto en honor a la Virgen María.

Para el final del Concierto, los alumnos decidieron volver a la tradición estadounidense. Los temas elegidos: The Road Home de Stephen Paulus, es una canción del antiguo cantoral Southern Harmony para tejer un tapiz coral contemporáneo. La canción tradicional de los Apalaches Will the Circle Be Unbroken de Charles Gabriel contiene inflexiones armónicas y rítmicas sureñas con arreglos de David Moore. Concluyendo con el negro espiritual My Soul’s been Anchored in the Lord, un arreglo de Stacey Gibbs. ■

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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.

Column: Thomas Hicks



Time changes the places that knew us

POTPOURRI

BY THOMAS H. HICKS

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

March is such a welcome month. There is the quickening that glows with promise, life triumphant. The first migrant robins and red-winged blackbirds arrive, and soon the returning birds will sing their ancient songs. Blue deepens in the sky, and a violet dusk folds gently over the earth and fades slowly. A line of geese is likely to be seen returning north. Another spring begins.

Yet, almost three months that make up this year have already passed. I believe we are allotted a certain period of time in this world. "And in Your book were written all the days that were ordained for me" (Psalm

139:16). As we get older, the days seem to get used up quickly, one by one. If I could stretch out the days like a rubber band, I would pull them out and out—and out!

How small a period time we share. This drums the certainty into one's mind—the unique treasure of each moment; to take each day and treat it carefully; to savor the moments.

For me, March and Spring are times when the past comes to life again, vanished places, faces and voices. A while ago, to test my memories against the reality, I went back to my old block and neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York. My home was a four-room flat. The rooms led into one another and

thus were called railroad flats. There were six such flats in my building which was three stories high.

That flat left memories of pleasant excitement, of happy adventures, of warm sleep on howling winter nights, and joyous awakenings on summer mornings. I wonder about all the lives that have been in those rooms. How many lives have the rooms sheltered down the long

years before welcoming my family? Who lived there since we left? How many? Were they happy there? I've prayed that things went well with them.

Those railroad flat rooms were rooms in which some of the best things in my life took place.

There are the names of streets that marked the boundaries of my youth—Stockholm, Onderdonk, Gates. From Seneca Ave., one could see the distant spires of New York City. I walked to school every school day, and I can remember store by store,

home by home, on those familiar streets I walked.

Time changes the places that knew us. I think everyone revisiting any scene of childhood invariably feels how smaller everything looks. The tree my brother and me used to climb is no longer so tall. The little grocery store my mother used to send me when she discovered she was out of butter, or rice or baking soda is gone. The vacant lot where I played

fungo has apartments on it. Today, the kids on my block are Black. "Things are all changing; the world's rearranging" (Willie

Nelson duet song)

I recall those dear friends of childhood who were my elementary school classmates. To think of them can bring tears to my eyes.

I find myself remembering small events, so small I'm surprised to remember them. Katie sitting on the stoop; the girl with the mouth that turned up at the corners when she smiled; a drizzly November day; jump-rope chants; sounds of boys playing punch ball in the street.

There's those giants of my childhood, the people who loved me and shaped me, who taught me things. How they live on. Above all, it is my mother who lives on in me.

How well I remember the melodies of my childhood:

Smile the while you kiss me sad

adieu

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

So wait and pray each night for me

Till we meet again.

"Night and day, you are the one, only you beneath the moon and under the sun."

That Brooklyn neighborhood had become my place, that spot on earth which, as Horace says: "above most others ridet mihi." It was the spot that nurtured me.

The years have spilled since Brooklyn. We move on, but the past is always with us. When I dip back into the past, I have a sense of something hidden at work—a God who works secretly and humbly. I believe a benign Providence was at work, a mysterious love and protector.

Psalm 23:6: "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life."

There was God's hidden but attentive care. "I greet Him the days I meet Him," wrote Gerard Manley Hopkins, "and bless when I understand."

*Of, in the stilly night
Ere slumber's chain has bound me,*

*Fond Memory brings the light
Of other days around me:*

*The smiles, the tears
Of boyhood's years,
The words of love then spoken;
The eyes that shone,
Now dimm'd and gone,
The cheerful hearts now broken!
(Thomas Moore, "Of, In the Stilly Night")*

I sigh for lost years, its vanished summers. Those dear, dead days.



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Column: Joe Pisani



The best advice I ever got

SWIMMING UPSTREAM

BY JOE PISANI

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

I gave my public speaking class a homework assignment to write a speech on the topic, “The best advice I ever got.” Students know a lot

CONCERT
FROM PAGE 26

Parish choir under the direction of Frank Macari, music director.

“We offer our deepest appreciation to Frank Macari, the concert’s music director, the St. Anthony of Padua Parish choir and all the talented musicians who generously came together from various communities throughout the Fairfield area to play for this celebration of God’s love and beauty,” wrote the St. Louis Jesuits in the concert program.

The St. Louis Jesuits assured the crowd that they had plenty of musical projects in the works to look forward to. “There are still more dreams to dream, more songs to write and new prayers to pray. Being with you today is part of that new vision as we step into the adventure that lies ahead of us,” they said.

The Coming Home concert will support the work of the Murphy Center for Ignatian Spirituality of Fairfield University. The Center welcomes those seeking to deepen their relationship with God and enrich their daily lives and offers spiritual direction and programming, in the Ignatian tradition, to guide individuals and groups in their journey toward this encounter, as St. Ignatius did, by “finding God in all things.” As part of this outreach, the Center trains spiritual directors who can assist individuals and groups in the discernment of God’s promptings in their lives

(Visit the Center’s website at: www.fairfield.edu/catholic-and-jesuit/murphy-center-for-ignatian-spirituality to learn how you can support their efforts.)

more than adults give them credit for...especially if they got their wisdom from their parents. OK, I admit I’m biased. I’m convinced that more young people should listen to their parents, although I probably didn’t as much as I should have.

We all have advice we’d like to share, some good, some bad. Some of us can’t stop giving advice—to the chagrin of our family members and friends—and many of us don’t listen to advice anyway.

I’ve certainly heard enough of it from my mother, my father, my grandmother, my teachers, priests, professors, the pope, every boss I’ve had, and countless blowhards I’ve encountered throughout my life who shall go unnamed. And I’ve given my share of it to my kids, who occasionally listened, and my wife,

who rarely listened. The older I get, the more they want to give ME advice.

My brain is teeming with advice, most of which I let go in one ear and out the other, as my mother would say.

My father, who lived the last 25 years of his life sober, was always passing along AA wisdom like “A day at a time” and “Live and let live.” The advice that got him sober and kept him sober was pretty simple: “Don’t drink and go to meetings.”

One valuable tip I often ignored came from my stock broker, who said, “Buy low and sell high.” Easier said than done. It was usually too late by the time I bought and even later by the time I sold. My 401(k) still hasn’t fully recovered from the trauma.

Throughout history, sages like Ben Franklin spouted adages like “He who lies down with dogs shall rise with fleas,” “A friend in need is a friend indeed,” “We may give advice, but we cannot give conduct,” “Search others for their virtues, thyself for thy vices,” and this classic, “There are three faithful friends—an old wife, an old dog and ready money.”

Another source of wisdom is the Book of Proverbs, which con-

tains gems like “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.” And this timeless proverb, which all husbands should memorize: “A wife of noble character is worth far more than rubies.”

I recently bought a book titled, “The Best Advice I Ever Got, by Katie Couric, who observed, “I never learned anything when I was talking.”

As I leafed through the pages, I found advice from many famous people, including the usual platitudes like “Do your best,” “Don’t be afraid,” “Work hard,” “Take risks,” and “Follow your dreams.” A few tidbits left me scratching my head in amazement. For example, Bill Cosby prophetically said, “Don’t be your own worst enemy.” As my mother would say, “He should have listened to his own advice.

Before his fall from grace, Matt Lauer said, “Sometimes you gotta go off course.” He sure did. Valerie Plame—remember her?—opined, “Life is unfair.” Echoing Socrates, Ellen DeGeneres said, “Be true to yourself.” And pre-presidential Donald Trump said, “Know everything you can.”

I was amazed that not

one person mentioned God. However, one famous actor who isn’t afraid to mention God is Denzel Washington. In his commencement address at Dillard University, he told graduates, “Put God first! Put God first in everything you do!” That’s certainly worth remembering.

The best advice I ever got is better than everything in Katie Couric’s book. It’s a simple and yet life-altering piece of wisdom. It’s advice I try to remember every day: “ALL the answers lie in the tabernacle.” One more time. ALL the answers lie in the tabernacle. Not a few, not some, not many. ALL.

Are you troubled about money, your marriage, your kids, your job, your health, your country? Are you sick or depressed or unhappy or confused or lonely? Sit in front of the tabernacle. Talk to Jesus in the silence and then listen to Jesus in the silence, and he will speak to your soul.

All the answers lie in the tabernacle. Go there even if you don’t think you’re looking for answers because you’ll find consolation, peace and joy. You’ll find everything you need.

“All the answers lie in the tabernacle” is the best advice I ever got...or gave.

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Bits and Pieces



Per the Bishop's Directives:

All events have been postponed or cancelled in the immediate weeks ahead. As important and life-giving as some of these events can be for a parish or institution, looking out for the well-being of others is of primary concern.

If you have a question about whether a particular event is still occurring, please contact the parish or event coordinator directly.

40 WAYS TO BE THIS LENT

Oftentimes we are tempted to do more during Lent. For Lent 2020, why not focus on being. Allow Lent 2020 to be a season of emptying, opening, and decluttering of schedules, minds, and hearts to make room for what God has in store for us through the fruits of the Holy Spirit* - which is always immeasurably more.



22

**BE WITH THE WORD.**

Choose a verse of Scripture to memorize. Set it as the screensaver or wallpaper on your phone. Each time you open your phone, take the opportunity to remember the verse.

23

**BE THANKFUL.**

Remember a time when you were struggling, and God helped you in the struggle or when you particularly felt His presence with you. Thank Him.

24

**BE BOLD.**

Tell a friend or family member a story of how your faith helped you in a particular situation.

25

**BE GOOD.**

Ask God to help you with a particular sin in your life. Confess the sin and then know that He gives you the grace to resist the temptation.

26

**BE FREE.**

Choose an area in your home to clean out. Donate or throw away items and discover how cleaning our physical space can help us to clean out the clutter in our minds and hearts.

27

**BE SILENT.**

Find a quiet place to spend a few minutes in silence each day. Each day add a few more minutes. Then a few more...

28

**BE GRACIOUS.**

Find an opportunity to thank the priests and other parish leaders in your life through cards, words of encouragement or inviting them for a meal. Thank Jesus for their sacrifice.

29

**BE THINKING.**

Pray for men to hear and answer the call to the complete self-gift of the priesthood. Pray for women to consider a life consecrated to God.

30

**BE FAITHFUL.**

Remember to have confident hope in all situations and encourage others to trust. Jesus, I trust in You.

31

**BE AT THE CROSS.**

Pray the Sorrowful Mysteries with your family. Use a Scriptural Rosary and think of one Bible verse per bead.

32

**BE A FRIEND.**

Invite someone to join you for Easter Mass and include this person in your family celebration of Easter.

33

**BE AWARE.**

Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil are beautiful opportunities to remember what Christ has done for us and to enter into His passion, death, and resurrection!

34

**BE FORMED.**

Is there a particular teaching of the Church that challenges you? Bring your questions or concerns to your pastor and ask him to help you better understand the teachings.

35

**BE GENTLE.**

When you are tempted to be angry or harsh with someone, ask the Holy Spirit to give you the gift of gentleness.

36

**BE OPEN.**

Spend time on Holy Thursday at St. Augustine Cathedral. Hear the priests renew their sacred promises and pray with the Bishop as he blesses the Holy Oils to be used in the coming year.

37

**BE ENCOURAGING.**

Help the people around you to know the Lord's kindness and faithfulness by sharing your faith and encouraging them.

38

**BE AT PEACE.**

Confession will be available in many parishes during Holy Week. See the diocesan website for locations and times.

39

**BE SELF-CONTROLLED.**

Know that your fasting and prayer helps build perseverance as you trust in and rely on His power at work within you.

40

**BE JOYFUL!**

Alleluia! We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song! Continue to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus every day!

*See Galatians 5:22 and section 1832 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church to learn more about the fruits of the Holy Spirit.



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March 2020

The Basilica of St. John the Evangelist

Mass honors Cardinal Kung's 'exemplary life'

By KATHY-ANN GOBIN

STAMFORD—The exemplary life of Cardinal Kung was honored at a Solemn Pontifical Requiem Mass at the Basilica of St. John the Evangelist in Stamford. The Mass marked the 20th anniversary of his death, inspiring life and fervent righteous fight for religious freedom in China.

"It is a great honor for me to offer this pontifical Mass, as we also pray for the persecuted faithful of those in China," said Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke,

accompanied Cardinal Burke and processed into the church in silence before the music ministry led by Nick Botkins, Basilica choir master and organist with The Basilica Schola and the Dark Horse Consort began to sing.

Waves of parishioners knelt as the cardinal processed down the aisle. He knelt in prayer in the front of the church before the ceremonial changing of vestments.

"This Mass is offered for the eternal rest of the soul of Cardinal Kung," said Cardinal Burke. "He is a model of inspiration for us

The Bertotti family of four travelled from Ridgefield, New Jersey to participate in the Requiem Mass.

"It's important to us to recognize the fight for religious freedom," said Mark Bertotti, who attended the Mass with his wife and two small children, adding that Catholics have the responsibility to further the work of faithful ancestors, such as Cardinal Kung.

In his honor, Cardinal Kung Academy opened in September 2018 in Stamford.

"Our Mass is a supreme act of continuing love for those we have loved in this life and who God has conferred to himself," Cardinal Burke said. "The Church is governed by Christ alone, not under any authority by the government." The Cardinal added, "Pray for the eternal rest of Cardinal Kung."

Echoing the words of defiance

once uttered by then Bishop Kung before he became a cardinal in pectore (in the heart of the Pope, without announcement to anyone in the world including Cardinal Kung) in 1979, the con-

gregation exclaimed at the end of Mass, "Long live Christ the King, Long live the Pope."

Cardinal Kung is being considered for canonization by the Church. ■



who officiated the Mass with hundreds of people in attendance including religious leaders and members of the Cardinal Kung Foundation. The not-for-profit Roman Catholic organization based in Stamford was founded in 1994 and monitors the treatment of Catholics in China.

The late Cardinal Ignatius Kung Pin-Mei was the first native Chinese Bishop of Shanghai and spent 30 years in a prison in China, mostly in isolation, following his refusal to renounce God and his Church to the Chinese communist government. He forwent many offers of safe passage out of China to stand by clergy and the faithful, inspiring millions of his countrymen to follow his example of fidelity to the Roman Catholic faith. Cardinal Kung is responsible for the preservation of the Roman Catholic Church in a communist country for the past 50 years.

About a dozen attendants

today. He inspires the shepherds of the faithful today in China and around the world even at the cost of persecution and execution."

The front of the Gothic-inspired church, founded in the 1850s, was adorned with black bunting and a memorial to Cardinal Kung was placed in the center of the church surrounded by candles.

A guest of the Diocese of Bridgeport after his release from prison in 1993, Cardinal Kung lived at the Retired Clergy Home in Stamford. He was 98 years old when he died and his funeral Mass was held at the Basilica in 2000.

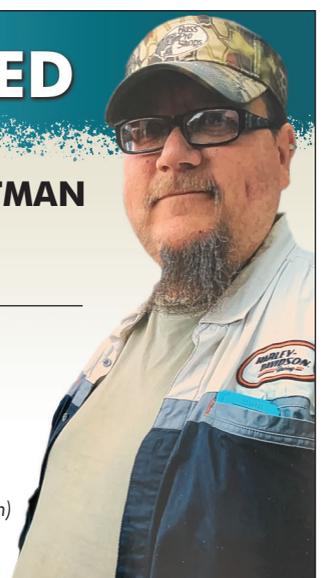
"Cardinal Kung is a hero to a lot of Catholics," said Jeanne Scarcella, of Scarsdale, New York. Scarcella was attending the two-hour mass for her aunt who lives in Alabama. "She really wanted to be here but couldn't travel," she said. It was the first Latin Mass for Scarcella who said the experience left her feeling more connected to the Church.

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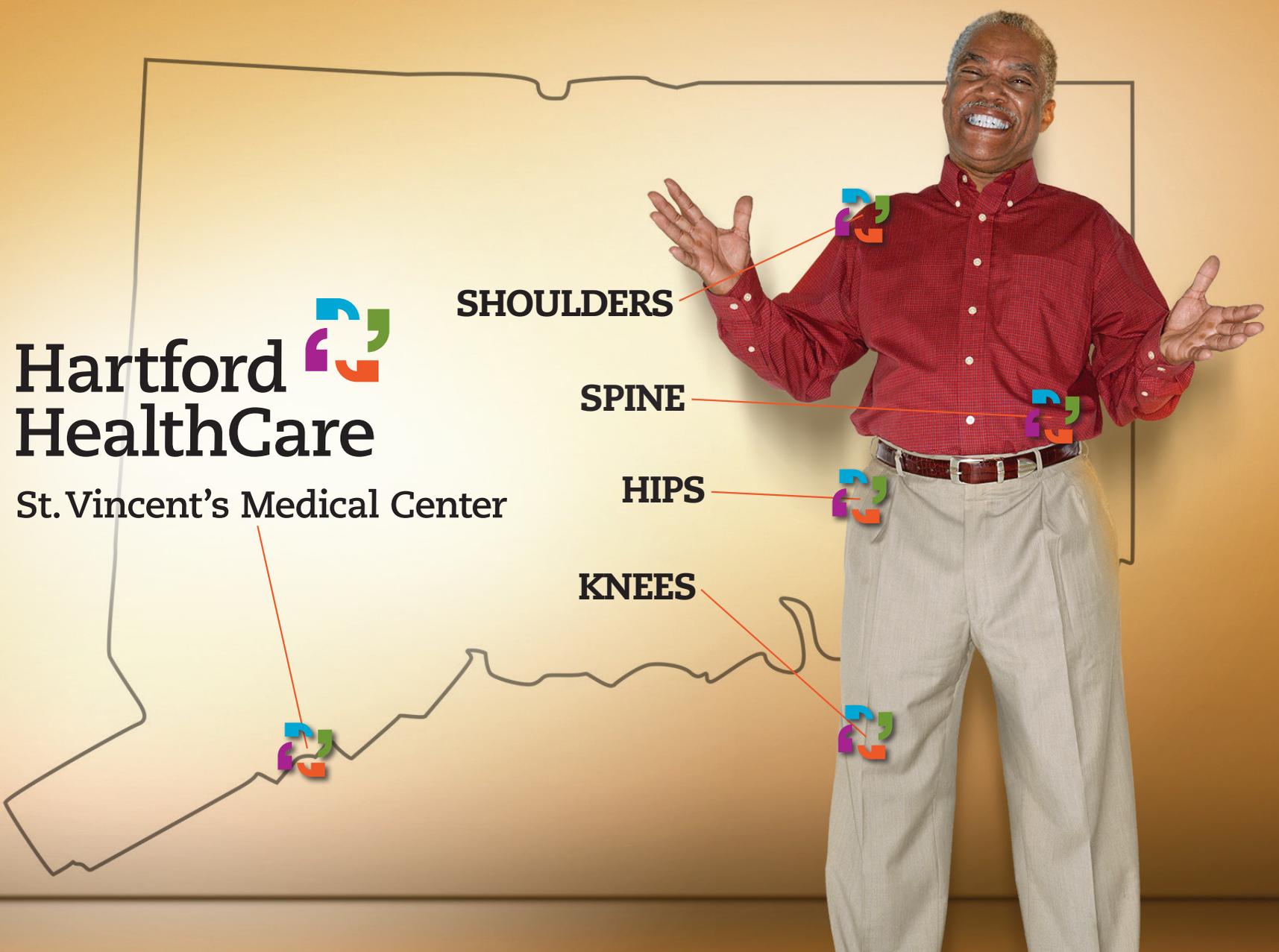


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