



FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC

JANUARY 2016 | VOLUME 33, NUMBER 1 | CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK ISSUE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



5 *ACA Chair Couple
Rowan and Julie Taylor*



25-48 *Special Diocesan
Schools Supplement*

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Synod: The Next Step

Parish Pastoral Planning 101

By **PATRICK TURNER**

You may have heard recently that your parish is entering into a pastoral planning process for 2016. You probably have many questions about what exactly that means, what is involved in the process, and the timeline for a parish pastoral plan. This article will attempt to address many of those questions.

One of the major initiatives that emerged from the Diocesan Synod was the recommendation that every parish in the diocese engage in a comprehensive and intentional process to create a parish pastoral plan for the next two years. Throughout the synod, the delegates recognized that there were many strengths in our individual parishes, but also identified a number of challenges facing our parishes and our diocese.

What was noted was that a number of our parishes operated on a year-to-year basis, responding to the immediate needs, without having the occasion to step back and carefully and intentionally set priorities and identify needs to be addressed. This process is designed to provide the opportunity for a broader discussion of goals and a renewal of our parishes.

The Office of Strategic and Pastoral Planning (OSPP) was created in October 2015 to provide the resources to assist the parishes in the diocese in implementing this synod initiative. Led by Father Michael Dogali, vicar for Strategic Planning, and Patrick Turner, director of Strategic and Pastoral Planning, the office will develop the materials and provide the formation necessary to assist parishes in drafting a two-year pastoral plan.

Ideally, parish pastoral planning helps to answer the questions:

- Who are we as a parish?
- What are we called to do?
- How are we best going to do it?
- Do we have the necessary resources, personnel and structures in place to do what we want to do?

The goal is to create a mechanism by which every aspect of parish life is intentional, missionary-driven, and open to periodic evaluation and improvement. It is important this process be rooted in prayer and open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and that those involved are faithful to patient discernment and study and committed to creating a plan with the pastor that will set the roadmap for vitality and vibrancy.

The pastoral planning process consists of five components:

- Collection of data, including financial, sacramental, pastoral, demographic and the state of the parish's physical plant
- Evaluation of that data
- Identification of strengths, challenges and priorities for the next two years
- Creation of a two-year pastoral plan that addresses both the parish's particular challenges and the synod's global challenges
- Evaluation of that plan on an annual basis

In order to undertake this planning process, each parish has been asked to identify 6-10 lay leaders to serve as a Planning Task Force for the next nine months. Pastors have been encouraged to seek out members of their parish and



finance councils and trustees to serve on this body, and also to invite new lay leaders into this visioning process. The pastor will serve as the leader of the Planning Task Force.

There are a number of broad steps to the planning process after the establishment of the Planning Task Force:

1. Each Planning Task Force will be asked to review a parish snapshot to be provided by the Office of Strategic and Pastoral Planning in early February that will include financial, pastoral and sacramental data trends over the last few years.

2. After reviewing the parish snapshot, the Task Force will be asked to complete a parish self-assessment evaluation: identifying pastoral strengths and challenges through the prism of the synod global challenges, a projection of the financial resources for the coming years, and a review of the current condition of all parish buildings.

3. After meeting with parish staff, pastoral and finance council

members and trustees to review the parish self-assessment, the Task Force will identify several priorities for the next two pastoral years.

4. Each parish will provide opportunities this spring and summer for the broader parish community to have discussions with the Planning Task Force about the priorities established before the finalized pastoral plan is submitted to Bishop Frank J. Caggiano by September 30.

Disciple Maker Index

In addition to the process outlined above that will be undertaken in all 82 of our parishes, 29 parishes will also be participating in the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey offered through the auspices of the Catholic Leadership Institute in Philadelphia. Thanks to a generous donor, these self-selected parishes will have the opportunity to engage their parishioners in a broad-based survey that will allow respondents to reflect on their own personal spiritual growth and discipleship and

identify ways in which the parish effectively supports that growth.

As a means to support this planning process, Father Dogali will be meeting throughout the spring with each pastor individually to review their parish data and to engage in a conversation about their particular parish priorities. In addition, there will be several "Pastoral Planning 101" workshops designed specifically for the Planning Task Force members to come together, share ideas and experiences and learn best practices from local and national experts.

All of this: the planning process, the data review, the consultations and collaboration, and the identification of goals for a parish pastoral plan, is designed to strengthen our parishes, to identify needs, to celebrate strengths, and to position our churches to be beacons of light to the people of Fairfield County for many years to come.

(Patrick Turner is director of Strategic and Pastoral Planning for the Diocese of Bridgeport.)



ON THE COVER

NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK—Students from St. Ann Academy in Black Rock, Bridgeport, among the nearly 9,000 young people who attend 31 diocesan elementary and high schools throughout Fairfield County. "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service" is the theme of National Catholic Schools Week, January 31-February 6. (PHOTOS BY AMY MORTENSEN)

CONTENTS

6 **McGIVNEY CENTER**
Bishop cooks for kids

8 **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**
Catholic Charties and St. Vincent's

12 **CONSECRATED LIFE PROFILE**
Sister Anna Rodriguez, MSSMI

13 **KOLBE CATHEDRAL TEACHER**
"Making a Difference"

15 **REFLECTIONS ON ISRAEL**
Writer Nina Riccio

18 **OBITUARIES**
Remembering Father Malloy, Msgr. Caldas

21 **TRINITY CATHOLIC FOOTBALL**
Columnist Don Harrison

22 **DIOCESAN YOUTH CHOIR**
Spirits soar at Christmas Concert

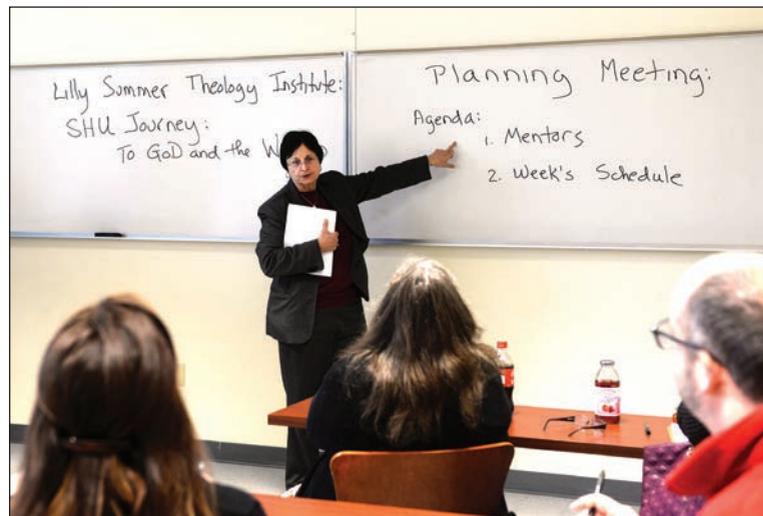


Local News

Lilly grant will enable SHU/high school theology

FAIRFIELD—Committee members for the Lilly Endowment High School Youth Theology Institutes gathered for the first time on January 12 to discuss the week-long workshop for local youth in June. The event, funded by a \$559,654 grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., will be hosted jointly by Sacred Heart University (SHU) and the Diocese of Bridgeport. This planning team includes members of the SHU faculty, campus ministry and student life who are working with staff from the diocese to plan and develop this week-long Institute, “SHU Journey: To God and the World.”

The six-day residential pro-



SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY Catholic Studies Program Director Michelle Loris conducts a meeting with the Lilly Endowment Summer Theology Program committee on January 12. (PHOTO BY TRACY DEER-MIREK)

gram will provide 24 high school students with an experience of faith education, self-discovery and fun activities. Six SHU student mentors will act as guides in this exploration of faith. They will share in small group conversations about real life issues, prayer, liturgy, music ministry and community service.

The week will include keynote talks by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano and Kerry Robinson, noted Catholic lay leader and executive director of the National Leadership Roundtable on Church Management. The participants will also visit the Cloisters in New York City.

The faculty and staff leaders for the week will include Dr.

Michelle Loris, director of SHU’s Catholic studies program; Father Anthony Ciorra, assistant vice president for Mission & Catholic Identity at SHU; Dr. June-Ann Greeley, professor of religious studies at SHU; Father David Buckles, director of Campus Ministry and Chaplaincy at SHU and Evan Psencik, coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Formation for the Diocese of Bridgeport.

“This will be an extraordinary and transformative week for those high school young men and women who want to become more knowledgeable, effective, confident and faith-filled leaders in their parishes, schools, and communities,” Dr. Loris says. ■

Two judges join Tribunal

BRIDGEPORT—Two judges have been appointed to serve on the newly restructured Diocesan Tribunal, which is the canonical court responsible for ruling on petitions for marriage annulments in the diocese.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano has announced that Magdalen Ross of New York will be the first lay person to serve as a judge on the Tribunal, and Father Zbigniew Zielinski comes to his new post with a doctorate in Canon Law. Their appointments became effective on January 4, and both judges are now at work in the Tribunal Office at the Catholic Center.

“As we prepare for the implementation of the new Canon Law governing annulments, we welcome Magdalen Ross and Father Zielinski. They bring tremendous knowledge, experience and compassion to their work on the Tribunal,” said the bishop.

Msgr. Dariusz Zielonka, newly named judicial vicar of the Tribunal, said that the naming of the first lay person and woman judge is consistent with the 1983 Code of Canon Law. In his new role, he will serve both as a judge in the Tribunal, and as director of the Tribunal responsible for canonical affairs of the diocese.

“Magdalen Ross comes to us

from the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of New York. In naming her a judge we’re fortunate to be able to take advantage of the 1983 change to canon law that permits lay judges. She is extremely qualified and I believe many people will welcome the presence of a lay person on the Tribunal,” he said.

Msgr. Zielonka added that Father Zielinski, who recently was awarded a doctorate in Canon Law, brings experience in the Roman Rota to his work in the diocesan tribunal.

“He has a great background and international experience. We’re fortunate that he has come to our diocese.”

Magdalen Ross is a San Francisco native who also spent some of her youth in Hungary, where she grew up under a socialist system. She later earned a degree in history from San Francisco State University and began work in a medical office while moonlighting as copy editor for a literary review.

After her parents passed away, she joined a monastery in Wales, but discovered she did not have a cloistered or hermit vocation. She moved to Rome and spent five years at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross studying philosophy, theology and canon law, earning the licentiate in canon law in 2009.



FATHER ZBIGNIEW ZIELINSKI

Ross has served in the archdioceses of San Antonio and Denver, and after doctoral studies at Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Louvain) and the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC., she was appointed as a judge for the Inter-diocesan Tribunal of the New York Province, an appellate court.

Father Zbigniew Zielinski, J.C.D., formerly a priest of the Archdiocese of Katowice, Poland, was born in Miasteczko Slaskie, Poland. After graduation from high school, he entered the diocesan seminary of the Archdiocese of Katowice and was ordained on May 16, 1998.

After ordination, he served as parochial vicar in several large



MAGDALEN ROSS

parishes of the archdiocese, and was sent for further studies in canon law at the Catholic University of St. John Paul II, in Lublin, Poland. He received a licentiate degree in Canon Law there and completed his doctorate in canon law in 2008.

He was later sent to study in the Roman Rota for two years. Returning to Poland, Father Zielinski worked in several parishes of the Archdiocese of Katowice, teaching classes in the university and serving as a parish priest in Poland.

During his summer vacations over the past 14 years he was able to visit Connecticut and became familiar with the area. He will reside at St. Stephen Parish in Trumbull. ■

Tribunal to reopen

BRIDGEPORT—The Diocese of Bridgeport will be one of the first dioceses across the U.S. to implement the new norms related to the annulment process, according to Msgr. Dariusz Zielonka, judicial vicar of the Tribunal.

Msgr. Zielonka said the Tribunal Office is ahead of schedule in its restructuring process and will officially re-open February 1. In the meantime, judges are reviewing cases and people are downloading forms on the new Tribunal website.

The changes are a response to the September 8, 2015, Apostolic Letter by Pope Francis entitled *Mitis iudex dominus Iesus* (MI), regarding the restructuring of the Church’s process pertaining to marriage annulment cases. The new law took effect on December 8, 2015.

“We have moved ahead to implement the new norms, and we already have the forms posted on our website to inform people and enable them to apply according to the new rules,” said Msgr. Zielonka, who is serving both

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Thank you for your generosity!

Kick off starts 2016 Appeal

NORWALK—The diocese formally launched the 2016 Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) on Sunday, January 16 at St. Matthew Parish in Norwalk, when Bishop Frank J. Caggiano was joined by pastors throughout the diocese to celebrate Mass and ask for blessings on the campaign and the work of the Church in Fairfield County.

About 100 pastors, parish chair people, and other campaign leaders turned out for the Mass and the reception that followed in the Great Room of St. Matthew's.

The theme of the 2016 Annual Catholic Appeal is "Renewed in Faith, Hope and Charity." The diocese has set an \$11 million goal to fund its major ministries, programs and service agencies.

Bishop Caggiano praised chair couple Julie and Rowan Taylor of New Canaan, welcomed the new vice chair couples, Maureen and Mike Considine of Stamford, and Elena and Steve Schlegel of New Canaan, and thanked the many men and women now serving as parish co-chairs.

The bishop noted that last year's appeal was a success because individual donors increased the amount of their gifts, but said he was concerned about a decline in the overall participation rate. He challenged all Catholics to give sacrificially at whatever level they were capable of making a donation.

"Gathering in prayer for the success of our work together is a wonderful way to begin the 2016 Appeal and I am grateful to our pastors, appeal lay co-chairs and all those who are stepping forward to lead the appeal this



year," said Bill McLean, chief development officer for the diocese.

Pam Rittman, director of the Annual Catholic Appeal, said that the ACA Education Weekend is set for January 30 and 31 in all parishes. "On this weekend the Annual Catholic Appeal formally begins," said Rittman who added that the new appeal brochure and video are also available.

"The powerful new video shows some of the faces behind the appeal and across the diocese, both those who are served and those who give generously to support the Church's mission," she said.

Among those interviewed in this year's video are Father Samuel Scott, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Danbury; Father Andy Vill, parochial vicar at the Basilica of St. John the Evangelist, Stamford; Dr. Brian Jenkins, executive director at New Covenant House, Stamford; the appeal lay chair couple, Julie and Rowan Taylor; and major benefactor Sarita Hanley.

Rittman said the 2016 Appeal video is one of the best ways to make parishioners aware of the many uses of the funds raised in the appeal. "I ask that you make every attempt to play the video or the audio message at all Masses."

(For more info or to give online, go to www.2016ACAbidgeport.com, or phone 203.416.1470.)

Individual Parish Results

	Pledged	Goal	%	
VICARIATE 1	Basilica of Saint John the Evangelist, Stamford	\$114,805	\$110,000	104%
	Holy Name of Jesus, Stamford	\$44,501	\$42,000	106%
	Holy Spirit, Stamford	\$133,119	\$106,000	126%
	Our Lady Star of the Sea, Stamford	\$104,561	\$105,000	99%
	Sacred Heart, Greenwich	\$44,812	\$50,000	90%
	Sacred Heart, Stamford	\$41,552	\$45,000	92%
	Saint Agnes, Greenwich	\$30,440	\$55,000	55%
	Saint Benedict-Montserrat, Stamford	\$46,110	\$40,000	115%
	Saint Bridget, Stamford	\$58,000	\$58,000	100%
	Saint Catherine of Siena, Riverside	\$239,337	\$200,000	120%
	Saint Cecilia, Stamford	\$104,080	\$105,000	99%
	Saint Clement, Stamford	\$46,790	\$53,000	88%
	Saint Gabriel, Stamford	\$58,927	\$57,000	103%
	Saint John, Darien	\$226,778	\$250,000	91%
	Saint Leo, Stamford	\$477,240	\$325,000	147%
	Saint Mary, Greenwich	\$386,984	\$400,000	97%
Saint Mary, Stamford	\$39,453	\$45,000	88%	
Saint Maurice, Stamford	\$53,480	\$60,000	89%	
Saint Michael, Greenwich	\$366,925	\$350,000	105%	
Saint Paul, Greenwich	\$119,168	\$116,000	103%	
Saint Roch, Greenwich	\$52,667	\$60,000	88%	
Saint Thomas More, Darien	\$690,048	\$500,000	138%	
VICARIATE 2	Assumption, Westport	\$216,328	\$195,000	111%
	Our Lady of Fatima, Wilton	\$229,833	\$225,000	102%
	Saint Aloysius, New Canaan	\$1,107,431	\$600,000	185%
	Saint Francis of Assisi, Weston	\$108,506	\$105,000	103%
	Saint Jerome, Norwalk	\$98,790	\$85,000	116%
	Saint Joseph, South Norwalk	\$55,753	\$55,000	101%
	Saint Ladislaus, South Norwalk	\$16,351	\$16,000	102%
	Saint Luke, Westport	\$249,067	\$225,000	111%
	Saint Mary, Norwalk	\$127,851	\$115,000	111%
	Saint Matthew, Norwalk	\$209,566	\$200,000	105%
	Saint Philip, Norwalk	\$82,795	\$78,000	106%
	Saint Thomas the Apostle, East Norwalk	\$102,478	\$115,000	89%
	VICARIATE 3	Holy Cross, Fairfield	\$22,547	\$18,000
Holy Family, Fairfield		\$64,885	\$75,000	87%
Notre Dame, Easton		\$86,899	\$115,000	76%
Our Lady of Assumption, Fairfield		\$141,530	\$170,000	83%
Saint Anthony of Padua, Fairfield		\$162,826	\$140,000	116%
Saint Emery, Fairfield		\$22,890	\$21,000	109%
Saint Pius X, Fairfield		\$346,477	\$275,000	126%
Saint Thomas Aquinas, Fairfield		\$232,020	\$200,000	116%
VICARIATE 4		Christ the King, Trumbull	\$81,797	\$80,000
	Holy Name of Jesus, Stratford	\$51,375	\$60,000	86%
	Our Lady of Grace, Stratford	\$89,525	\$88,000	102%
	Our Lady of Peace, Stratford	\$73,619	\$65,000	113%
	Saint Catherine of Siena, Trumbull	\$199,308	\$190,000	105%
	Saint James, Stratford	\$140,373	\$130,000	108%
	Saint Joseph, Shelton	\$92,508	\$90,000	103%
	Saint Jude, Monroe	\$201,013	\$190,000	106%
	Saint Lawrence, Shelton	\$258,505	\$195,000	133%
	Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, Shelton	\$55,723	\$51,000	109%
	Saint Mark, Stratford	\$144,081	\$137,000	105%
	Saint Stephen, Trumbull	\$138,230	\$125,000	111%
	Saint Theresa, Trumbull	\$182,842	\$182,000	100%
VICARIATE 5	Holy Trinity Parish, Sherman	\$66,766	\$65,000	103%
	Immaculate Heart of Mary, Danbury	\$18,565	\$21,000	88%
	Our Lady of Guadalupe, Danbury	\$22,706	\$26,000	87%
	Sacred Heart, Danbury	\$44,676	\$42,000	106%
	Sacred Heart, Georgetown	\$96,146	\$90,000	107%
	Saint Edward, New Fairfield	\$208,974	\$200,000	104%
	Saint Elizabeth Seton, Ridgefield	\$119,010	\$105,000	113%
	Saint Gregory the Great, Danbury	\$107,470	\$100,000	107%
	Saint Joseph, Brookfield	\$130,053	\$130,000	100%
	Saint Joseph, Danbury	\$148,396	\$130,000	114%
	Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys, Brookfield	\$74,381	\$73,000	102%
	Saint Mary Parish, Bethel	\$170,988	\$160,000	107%
	Saint Mary, Ridgefield	\$380,373	\$305,000	125%
Saint Patrick, Redding Ridge	\$89,180	\$60,000	149%	
Saint Peter, Danbury	\$131,770	\$120,000	110%	
Saint Rose of Lima, Newtown	\$256,461	\$235,000	109%	
VICARIATE 6	Blessed Sacrament, Bridgeport	\$10,240	\$15,000	68%
	Our Lady of Fatima, Bridgeport	\$30,000	\$30,000	100%
	Saint Andrew, Bridgeport	\$78,460	\$75,000	105%
	Saint Ann, Bridgeport	\$45,297	\$51,000	89%
	Saint Charles Borromeo, Bridgeport	\$25,182	\$47,000	54%
	Saint George, Bridgeport	\$17,020	\$17,000	100%
	Saint Mary, Bridgeport	\$34,659	\$28,000	124%
	Saint Michael the Archangel, Bridgeport	\$45,753	\$45,000	102%
	Saint Peter, Bridgeport	\$45,452	\$45,000	101%
	Saints Cyril and Methodius Parish, Bridgeport	\$20,810	\$18,000	116%
	Shrine of Saint Margaret, Bridgeport	\$35,634	\$33,000	108%
The Cathedral Parish, Bridgeport	\$98,812	\$95,000	104%	

Unspecified \$74,731
Total \$11,501,460

Annual Catholic Appeal

Appeal chair couple welcomes two vice chairs

By PAT HENNESSY

“By giving together as one, great, diocesan family, we will be bonded as a team for the future of our faith and our Church,” say Rowan and Julie Taylor, who have agreed to serve again as lay chair couple of the Annual Catholic Appeal.

“Rowan and I are excited to be a part of the new structure of the expanded lay committee,” says Julie. “We are particularly enthusiastic about working with Maureen and Mike Considine and Elena and Steve Schlegel, who join us in our commitment to sustain our faith and empower the young Church.”

“People need to know that the work of the diocese goes on in every community,” says Maureen, explaining one of the reasons she and Mike were happy to sign on as a chair couple. “There’s a lot the Church does behind the scenes that people don’t know about.”

Maureen and Mike and their five children are parishioners of St. Cecilia Parish in Stamford. Though they have lived in other cities, in one of the unexpected twists of life, they ended up back at the parish where Maureen was baptized and grew up. (Mike is originally from the Bronx.)

Maureen graduated from Georgetown University and obtained masters degrees in international affairs and public health from Columbia University. She worked with Catholic Relief Services in Thailand after she graduated Georgetown, an experience that profoundly affected her faith.

“I was working in a camp about an hour from Bangkok. We had Cambodians fleeing for their lives and Vietnamese seeking a better life. So many were unaccompanied minors. It gives me an insight into the refugee crisis we’re experiencing now.”

She is a Dame of Malta, and she and Mike have accompanied the sick and infirm on pilgrimage to Our Lady of Lourdes in France.

Mike is a graduate of Boston College. After graduating from the Georgetown University Law Center, he became a federal prosecutor in New York. “Maureen and I missed each other by a year



ROWAN AND JULIE TAYLOR, (center) have agreed to serve again as lay chair couple of the Annual Catholic Appeal. They are enthusiastic about the expanded lay committee, which now includes vice chair couples (l) Steve and Elena Schlegel and (r) Maureen and Mike Considine. (PHOTO BY AMY MORTENSEN)

at Georgetown,” he says. They met instead at an alumni gathering in Manhattan. They were married at St. Cecilia’s, where Maureen now teaches religious education in the parish where she received all her own sacraments. She also volunteers as a Eucharistic Minister at Stamford Hospital.

Mike, a partner and co-head of the Government Investigations Practice Group at the Seward and Kissel law firm in NYC, is proud of the solid Jesuit foundation he received in college. He serves on the board of Fordham Prep in the Bronx and the Ignatian Spirituality Center at Fairfield University.

“We have to provide opportunities for people to renew their faith,” says Mike, holding up the collaboration between the diocese and Ignatian Center as an example. “One of the things I raised when I met the bishop was the importance of adult education and adult formation. People have a hunger for spiritual formation, and this lines up perfectly with one of the aims of the Diocesan Synod.”

Mike volunteers at St. Camillus Residence in Stamford on Saturdays, spending several hours each week bringing the Eucharist and visiting the residents.

The second vice chair couple, Elena and Steve Schlegel, both grew up in Fairfield County, she in New Canaan and Steve in Trumbull, where he graduated from St. Joseph High School.

Steve earned his undergraduate degree from Boston College and his MBA from Harvard University. Elena went to the University of New Hampshire where she earned her undergraduate degree in communications.

“We met through a friend while we were both living in Boston,” Elena recalls. At the time, Steve was working at State Street Bank as an investment banker and Elena was the director of Human Resources for MFS Financial. “Our friend knew how important it was for Steve to meet a practicing Catholic girl. One day she learned that I went to Mass every Sunday. That was it!”

They found they had another common interest. Both liked to run: Elena had been in a few races, and Steve ran in a marathon or two. With faith and energy bonding them, they were married in 1992 at St. Aloysius Church in New Canaan. They relocated to Connecticut when Steve became the chief operating officer of NYC/Tri-State region

for JLL (real estate) in New York City.

Elena gave up her professional career so they could start their family. Again, coming back to their roots as the Considines had done, they and their three children are members of St. Aloysius Parish where Elena grew up. Even though their children have graduated from the parish religious education program, Elena

still teaches the fourth-grade students.

Elena and their daughter, Katherine, recently became Eucharistic Ministers. “We served at Midnight Mass together this Christmas,” says Elena, her voice rich with awe recalling this faith-filled moment.

Steve has coached town rec baseball for many years. He went with Katherine on a mission trip to Puerto Rico last year, an eye-opening experience for him.

“When Julie asked us to be part of the appeal, we didn’t fully understand what it was all about,” Elena says. “When we saw the appeal video, we couldn’t believe how much the Church is doing. Anything we can do to strengthen it is important. If our friends see us getting involved, maybe it will make them become connected and see why this means so much.”

Julie and Rowan have felt the same experience, and hope that they and their vice chair couples will be able to spread the message throughout the diocese.

“Working with Bishop Frank and the Development Office allowed us to deepen our faith by further discovering the amazing works and ministries of our diocese. This year, we fervently hope that all will see that every donation, no matter how small or how large, makes a difference.” ■

PLANNING TO BE IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA THIS WINTER?

You are invited to join Bishop Caggiano for an afternoon reunion in Naples.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2016

See you in the Sunshine State!




Please contact Connie Von Zwehl for further details and your personal invitation by email at ccvz@att.net or call 203-216-1608.

Youth News

Bishop cooks for the kids at McGivney

By **BRIAN D. WALLACE**

BRIDGEPORT—Bishop Caggiano cooked one of his mother's favorite recipes for 10 children at the McGivney Center in January, and fearlessly awaited the verdict as he put the food on the table at the center of the tiny kitchen.

"Amazing," said one little boy, and the others repeated the word as they scarfed down the pasta and vegetable dinner he prepared.

On the menu: farfalle with yellow and green squash, cooked in virgin olive oil and fresh garlic, and garnished with halved grape tomatoes and cubes of fresh mozzarella.

The bishop was cooking for some tough and fussy customers—seven and eight year old boys and girls who participate in the McGivney after-school programs at the youth and community center located in the East Side of Bridgeport, a densely populated neighborhood with many

working poor and immigrant families.

His turn in the kitchen was part of McGivney's "Celebrity Chef" series, in which community leaders stop to prepare an early supper for the kids, share a little bit of their lives, and face the reviews.

"Where's the sauce?" one little boy asked when he noticed there was no red sauce on the noodles as the bishop first put the large bowl on the table.

"It's good," said another boy who eagerly dug in and led the way for the others.

In between the cutting, peeling, chopping and cooking, the bishop took the time to combine a teaching moment, showing the kids the squash and tomatoes and giving them each a dry bowtie noodle to hold in their hands.

"I'm Bishop Frank. Do you know what the bishop does?" he asked over the sound of basketballs thumping on the newly-restored court on the other side of the kitchen door.

The young boys and girls ini-



A GROUP OF FUSSY customers, youngsters at the McGivney Center in Bridgeport, watch as Bishop Caggiano cooks one of his mother's favorite recipes.

tially greeted his question with a blank stare until one little girl said much to the bishop's delight, "You're in charge!"

"Tweet that out" said the bishop with a gleam in his eye to diocesan social media leader John Grosso, who was recording the event.

Just before dinner was served, the bishop asked the children, "What do we do before we eat?"

"We pray," they said almost in unison, and bowed their heads as the bishop led a simple grace.

After the prayer, he went around the table and asked the children what they're thankful for. "My Mom and Dad," said one girl. "My family," said another. "The food," said a boy, and "basketball," mumbled a shy boy on one end of the table.

"I'm proud of you," the bishop said as Executive Director

Terry O'Connor (who also leads the Cardinal Shehan Center) and Board President Paul Gleason of Fairfield looked on. "You're good sports and good people."

The kids made short work of their plates and some asked for seconds. Overall the bishop seemed pleased with his culinary triumph and felt he had done his mother proud on the fifth anniversary of her passing.

After helping McGivney staffer Anna Orsini to clear the table, he looked over at the new dishwasher and broke into a smile. "That's great. I don't have to do the dishes," he said as he ran out the door to attend a Shabbat supper at Temple Shalom in Greenwich.

The McGivney Community Center, sponsored by the Diocese of Bridgeport, is located at 338 Stillman St. in Bridgeport. It was founded in 1992 to provide youth with an educational safe haven from the dangers of the streets by providing them with after-school and evening programs, as well as summer camp.

(For more info, visit www.mcgivney.org.)



MOST REVEREND FRANK J. CAGGIANO, BISHOP OF BRIDGEPORT
CORDIALLY INVITES MEMBERS

OF THE
HEALTHCARE PROFESSION AND THEIR GUESTS
TO THE
TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL DIOCESAN WHITE MASS

SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2016 AT 9:30 AM

SAINT AUGUSTINE CATHEDRAL
359 WASHINGTON AVENUE, BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT 06604

PRINCIPAL CELEBRANT AND HOMILIST
MOST REVEREND FRANK J. CAGGIANO

BREAKFAST IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
AT TESTOS

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GUEST SPEAKER AT THE BREAKFAST
SISTER MAUREEN MCGUIRE, DC
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IN MEMORY OF FR. RUFIN KUVEIKIS, O.F.M. CAP.
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'Uplift the World'

CONVIVIO, a worldwide high school congress, was introduced to the U.S. in 2010 by the Diocese of Bridgeport. This year the Convivio weekend, held at Sacred Heart University Friday-Sunday, March 4-6, will take its theme from the Jubilee Year of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis. "Uplift the World" will be an opportunity for teens to explore and experience the Lord's Mercy in a new and life-changing way.

The goal of CONVIVIO is to help youth become more aware of the problems of today's world and to seek responses. Over the weekend they can reflect together, youth with youth, about the participation that they should all have in this society and in the world where they live. The goal is to give them the skills and tools to begin building a better world—now—not in the



distant future.

The weekend includes Mass, Adoration, the Sacrament of Reconciliation as well as talks, discussion groups, games and community activities. It is led by teens and is open to any high school student. No matter where a young person is in their faith, CONVIVIO encourages students to ask hard questions in order to find real answers and return to their families, parishes, youth

groups, and schools to share their new-found or reaffirmed belief. It also helps students to realize that they are a part of something greater, that they are not alone in their journey of faith, and that there are concrete ways to change their local communities and the world.

(For more info, contact Maria Cerdana, coordinator of High School Apostles and Convivio: hsa@diobpt.org or 203.416.1454.)

Synod: The Next Step

Plans underway for Catholic Service Corps

BRIDGEPORT—Representatives from more than 20 parishes, schools and youth ministries turned out for the first organizational meeting for the new Catholic Service Corps held at the Thomas Merton Center in Bridgeport.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano has invited a number of parishes and schools to join a pilot program that will formally launch the new Catholic Service Corps later this year.

The importance of youth service grounded in the faith and the spirit of the Gospels was a major concern of the Diocesan Synod, and the need to establish a service corps was unanimously endorsed by delegates.

"This is the ideal place to launch our service corps, a place

where service is done so beautifully and generously," said the bishop at the Merton Center meeting. He said it is important that works of service are grounded in faith and spiritual reflection, and that the Church should emphasize the "corporal works of mercy" during this Jubilee Year of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis.

"I want the Catholic Service Corps to be a lifestyle commitment, an opportunity in life for a young person to deepen his or her relationship with Christ," he said.

Al DiGuido of Westport, an internet marketing specialist and the founder of Al's Angels, a non-profit children's and family charity, has agreed to help the diocese launch the new program recommended by the synod.



YOUTH FROM THROUGHOUT THE DIOCESE brought canned goods to form a lighthouse of food at the Synod Celebration Mass. That youthful energy will be channeled into a Catholic Service Corps launching later this year.

"The service corps is an opportunity to engage young people in the life of the Church by marrying service and evangelization," said DiGuido, who is a member of

St. Matthew Parish in Norwalk. "They will encounter Jesus in acts of mercy and charity."

During the meeting, DiGuido shared an overall mission state-

ment for the programs and said that he felt it could help both to engage youth and bring people back to the Church. He said the service corps has the potential to be inter-generational, with young people volunteering alongside parents and grandparents.

Others said that the many young adults who are Catholic School alumni are also looking for service opportunities.

"This is formation, not simply information about volunteer opportunities. We are working to change the hearts and minds of our diocese," the bishop said.

Members of the Catholic Service Corps pilot program committee will continue to meet to plan the program and its service and faith formation opportunities. ■

Council for Religious

BRIDGEPORT—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano has announced appointments of consecrated members to serve on the newly formed Council for Religious.

The council will advise the bishop about matters related to religious communities. It was formed in response to the synod's recognition of the need to support and sustain religious life in the diocese.

"I am very grateful to those who have accepted my invitation to serve on the council," said Bishop Caggiano. "They have been chosen from among religious present throughout the diocese to bring their concerns and viewpoints forward in service to the larger Church."

Members of the council came together for the inaugural meeting on December 2. During the meeting, council members discussed the role of Religious Communities in helping to implement the synod, participate in leadership development, increase vocations, and promote the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

A representative gathering of women and men from institutes and congregations serving in this diocese have been appointed to serve on the Council for Religious: Delegate for Religious, Sister Nancy Strillacci, Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus; Father Charles Allen, Society of Jesus; Sister Jude Carroll, Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth; Sister Maureen Fleming, School Sisters of Notre Dame; Sister Gesuina Gencarelli, Little Workers of the Sacred Heart; Sister Marilyn Hammill, Congregation of Notre Dame; Sister Maria Inatzen Moreno, Institute Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará.

Also, Sister Marilyn Muldoon, Sisters of the Roman Union of the Order of Saint Ursula; Sister Carol Ann Nawracaj, Bernardine Franciscan Sisters; Sister Na Nguyen, Lovers of the Holy Cross; Sister Bernadette Swan, Sisters of Life; Sister John Vianney Zullo, School Sisters of Notre Dame.

Bishop Caggiano asked all the faithful to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide the Council for Religious in its work to support the life and ministry of our religious men and women. ■

Catechetical Task Force set

BRIDGEPORT—Bishop Frank J. Caggiano has announced the formation of a Catechetical Task Force to renew and update catechetical methods and programs used throughout the diocese.

"A key mandate of the Fourth Synod of the Diocese of Bridgeport was the need to form a Catechetical Task Force, and I'm pleased to say we have a great and representative group of Task Force members now at work. I ask for your prayers as they begin their work," said the bishop.

During many of the synod's general sessions last year, delegates expressed concerns about the need to create a new generation of catechetical programs for children in parish religious education.

The bishop said the Task Force will explore a number of issues, including the possible expansion of catechetical formation to begin at baptism; new models of youth ministry; high school catechetical formation and education and alternative models of faith formation to be made available in the parishes. There may be other related topics that the Task Force will choose to address.

The following members have been appointed by Bishop Caggiano to serve on the Catechetical Task Force: Paul Brunner, St. Joseph High School,

Trumbull; Cathy Coyle, St. Pius X Parish, Fairfield; Kali DiMarco, St. Philip Parish, Norwalk; Patricia Heller, St. Joseph Parish, Shelton; Jane LaCourt, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Weston; Lisa Lanni, St. Joseph School, Danbury; Father Jeffrey Maurer, St. Mary Parish, Washingtonville, N.Y.; Marilyn Melgar, St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Bridgeport; Nancy Murgalo, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Weston; Father Michael Novajosky, St. Joseph High School, Trumbull; Patricia Postiglione, St. Peter Parish, Danbury; Charlene Prinszano, St. Mary Parish, Greenwich;

Father Andrew Vill, Basilica of St. John the Evangelist, Stamford; Sister Luisa Villegas, ASCJ, Mt. Sacred Heart, Hamden; Andrea Woronick, St. Joseph Parish, Brookfield; and Ryan Young, Camp Veritas, Salt Point, N.Y.

Also named to the Task Force are members of the new diocesan Faith Formation Office: Evan Psencik, Youth and Young Adult Formation; Kim Quatela, Family Formation; and Rose Talbot-Babey, Childhood Formation.

An interim report is expected to be released later this year, with the final catechetical recommendations planned for 2017. ■



**The Closing of
the Year of Consecrated Life
Feast of the Presentation of the Lord**

Vespers Service

Place: Saint Augustine Cathedral
Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2016
Time: 7:30 pm

You are invited to a solemn celebration of the gift of Religious Life to the Church and the effect the service of Religious has had on Fairfield County. Rev. Robert Kinnally, Chancellor of the Diocese of Bridgeport, will preside.



Local News

St. Vincent's and Catholic Charities to expand Behavioral Health

BRIDGEPORT—Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Bridgeport and St. Vincent's MultiSpecialty Group are working together to provide expanded behavioral health services to the greater Bridgeport region. The collaboration expands the outpatient behavioral programming by providing all levels of outpatient services in one Main Street, Bridgeport, location.

The announcement was made by Al Barber, president/CEO of Catholic Charities and Stuart Marcus, MD, president and CEO of St. Vincent's Health Services.

St. Vincent's is the third largest provider of inpatient behavioral health services in Connecticut. Catholic Charities has been providing behavioral health services to Fairfield County since the 1960s.

"This collaboration allows us to be more efficient and more effective. It's a natural fit in so many ways, given our shared mission and complementary services," explained Barber. "Optimizing our services for fragile individuals is one of the toughest things we do. With the increased focus on mental health issues in society today, the need to enhance behavioral health offerings has never been greater."

"I am delighted to welcome the Catholic Charities staff to the St. Vincent's family. Together we are providing a full continuum of care to our community members with great skill, compassion, and reverence," said Peggy Hardy, RN, BSN, MS, vice president of behavioral health for St. Vincent's MultiSpecialty Group.

St. Vincent's is committed



EXPANDED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: (l-r) Al Barber, president, Catholic Charities of Fairfield County; Stuart G. Marcus, MD, president and CEO, St. Vincent's Health Services; and Peggy Hardy, RN, BSN, MS, vice president, behavioral health, St. Vincent's MultiSpecialty Group sign the paperwork making this collaboration official.

to delivering exceptional care for the mind, body, and spirit as an integrated continuum of

behavioral health and addiction services for individuals and their families. Intensive outpatient and

partial hospital services for adults and adolescents will continue, while the collaborative agreement expands and complements the scope of outpatient services offered by St. Vincent's.

Catholic Charities of Fairfield County offers outpatient behavioral health services including parenting education programs; school based counseling services; individual, couples, and family psychiatric consultations and evaluations for adults and children; medication management and group therapy services. All services are provided at St. Vincent's Outpatient Center at 2414 Main Street, Bridgeport.

(To learn more about St. Vincent's MultiSpecialty Groups behavioral health services, call 203.696.3570 or visit www.stvincents.org.)

Marriage Prep responds to synod directives

BRIDGEPORT—Now that new Faith Formation coordinators are in place, the current diocesan Marriage Preparation classes are being evaluated to better suit the needs of the couples planning a marriage. More specifically, the Diocesan Synod called for a reappraisal of the current offering for Marriage Preparation and the development of a new and updated program.

In response to this mandate, Kim Quatela, coordinator of Family Formation who is overseeing the Marriage Preparation program, has identified three goals for the revised program:

First, the presentation material, training and resources will be standardized both for the English and Spanish Marriage Preparation programs. This will happen through a new Marriage

Preparation curriculum called "Unveiled," developed originally in the Diocese of Richmond, which will be used in both languages. "There may be a delay in the introduction of the Spanish version due to the need to translate materials," Quatela noted.

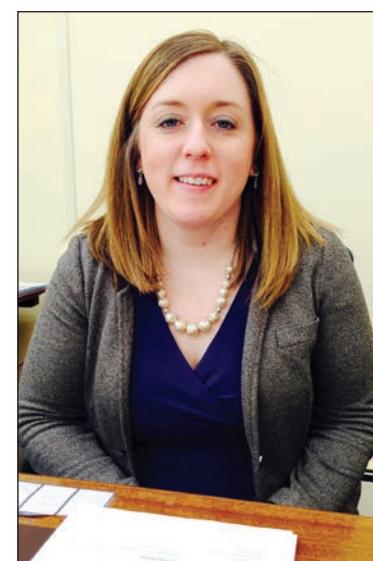
The program will also standardize fees, materials, location (the Catholic Center) and stipends for speakers.

Next, a plan is underway to recruit faithful, joyful couples, including newly married couples, young families and seasoned married couples who are interested in sharing the gift of their experience and faith by becoming facilitating couples. Quatela has been recruiting couples throughout the month of January and asking pastors to identify couples who they think would like to serve the Church in this role.

"I am seeking couples who want to help others grow closer to Our Lord through Christ and his Church," she said, defining the role of facilitators. "They should be willing to speak about their Catholic faith and the role it has played in their life and marriage."

In addition to having a valid Catholic marriage and a commitment to Christ and the Church, she is looking for "a marriage where it is clear the couple enjoys each other and enjoys being together."

The final goal of the revised program will be a re-branding of the Marriage Preparation Class into a "Marriage Conference" with a welcoming feel. "What we're providing them is a com-



KIM QUATELA

plete, enriching, and engaging day, showcasing the beauty of marriage and their Catholic faith, including multi-media presentations and the opportunity to dialogue with their future spouse," explained Quatela.

(Pastors are invited to pass contact information to Kim Quatela at kquatela@diobpt.org. Couples interested in having a part in the program can also contact her at that email address.)

SAINT MARY'S CHURCH

"The Mother Church of Norwalk" | 669 West Ave., Norwalk | www.stmarynorwalk.net | 203.866.5546

Pastor: Rev. Richard G. Cipolla

Deacon Stephan A. Genovese

In Residence: Rev. Paul N. Check, ext. 109; Courage Office: 203.803.1564

MASSSES:

Daily Masses:

Monday-Friday 8:00 am, 12:10 pm;
Wednesday 6:00 pm Extraordinary Form;
Saturday 9:00 am Extraordinary Form

Saturday Anticipatory Mass:

4:00 pm, 7:00 pm (Spanish)

Sunday: 8:00 am, 9:30 am Latin High Mass,

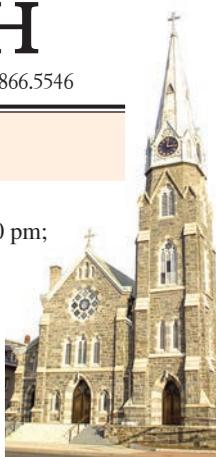
11:30 am English High Mass,
1:15 pm (Spanish)

CONFESSION SCHEDULE:

Monday-Friday: 11:30 am-12:00 pm;
Wednesday: 5:30-5:50 pm;
Saturday: 3:00-4:30 pm

ADORATION:

Mondays: 8:30 am-7:00 pm;
Fridays: 8:30 am-5:30 pm



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HOURS: Saturday 10am-4pm | Sunday 8am-3pm | Monday-Friday 6-7pm

Located in Parish Center building behind Saint Mary Church | VISA/MC ACCEPTED

Local News

Stratford man joins diocesan Real Estate Office

BRIDGEPORT—Richard Rapice, R.A., a member of Our Lady of Grace Parish in Stratford, has been named project manager of the Real Estate Development Office of the Diocese of Bridgeport. The appointment was made by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano.

He will be working with Andrew Schulz, director of real estate, and Atty. Anne McCrory, chief of the Legal and Real Estate Office of the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Rapice, an architect, will be responsible for overseeing new construction projects, along with ongoing diocesan property portfolio facilities management, energy audits and upgrade to parishes and schools including solar, lighting, boiler/mechanicals and windows.

“As an architect and project manager, Richard Rapice has

extensive design build and facilities management experience,”

said McCrory. “We welcome his expertise as the diocese moves forward on many building projects and an overall real estate plan for the future.”

Rapice is a State of Connecticut Registered Architect with 30 years of private and public sector experience. His portfolio includes project management, construction management and facilities management for architectural and construction firms. Most recently he has

worked on design and construction of Connecticut K-12 public schools as well as college and university projects.

He was previously an architect associated with Perkins Eastman Architects, an international planning, design, and consulting firm with nine offices across the U.S. and overseas.

Schulz said the diocese is currently working on the relocation of St. John Fisher Seminary from Stamford to the bishop’s residence in Trumbull, improvements to the Trinity Catholic

football field and the planning and search for a new Bridgeport home for the Catholic Center. Rapice is also serving as a member of the bishop’s Sacred Arts and Grounds Committee.

A lifelong resident of Stratford, Rapice is a graduate of Bunnell High School and the Pratt Institute School of Architecture in Brooklyn, N.Y.

He is a licensed State of Connecticut building inspector, LEED AP-certified in sustainable building design and construction solutions; a certified construction contract administrator; and licensed State of Connecticut interior designer.

Rapice and his wife of 30 years, Kimmarie, are the parents of two grown children, Ashley, a senior at the University of Connecticut, and Richard John, who recently passed the Connecticut Bar Exam.



RICHARD RAPICE, R.A.

In November of this year, Bishop Caggiano convened a Real Estate Summit to explore ways in which diocesan properties (not parish holdings) could be sold, rented or leased to support mission essential programs and ministries.

(For more info, contact the Office of Real Estate Department: 203.416.1647 org.)

“We welcome his expertise as the diocese moves forward on many building projects and an overall real estate plan for the future.”

Jubilee year of MERCY



As a concrete response to Pope Francis’ call, during this Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, that the Church be “above all a credible witness to mercy, professing it and living it as the core of the revelation of Jesus Christ” (Misericordiae Vultus, 25) Bishop Caggiano has established twelve parishes throughout the Diocese of Bridgeport as Centers of Mercy.

Two Centers of Mercy are located in each Vicariate of the diocese, one for Tuesday evenings, and one for Thursday evenings. These Centers of Mercy will be open, and a priest will be available to offer the Sacrament

of Reconciliation, each Tuesday or Thursday evening, from 7:00 to 8:30pm (see the schedule below) beginning in Lent, and extending throughout the Year of Mercy.

With these Centers of Mercy, no Catholic in our diocese will need to wait more than two or three days before there are regularly scheduled Confessions in his or her local area. As Pope Francis has written, God’s mercy “is a spring that will never run dry, no matter how many people draw from it. Every time someone is in need, he or she can approach it, because the mercy of God never ends” (MV, 25).

The Centers of Mercy in the Diocese of Bridgeport will be:

Vicariate I:
Holy Spirit, Stamford
TUESDAYS: 7:00pm - 8:30pm
St. Thomas More, Darien
THURSDAYS: 7:00pm - 8:30pm

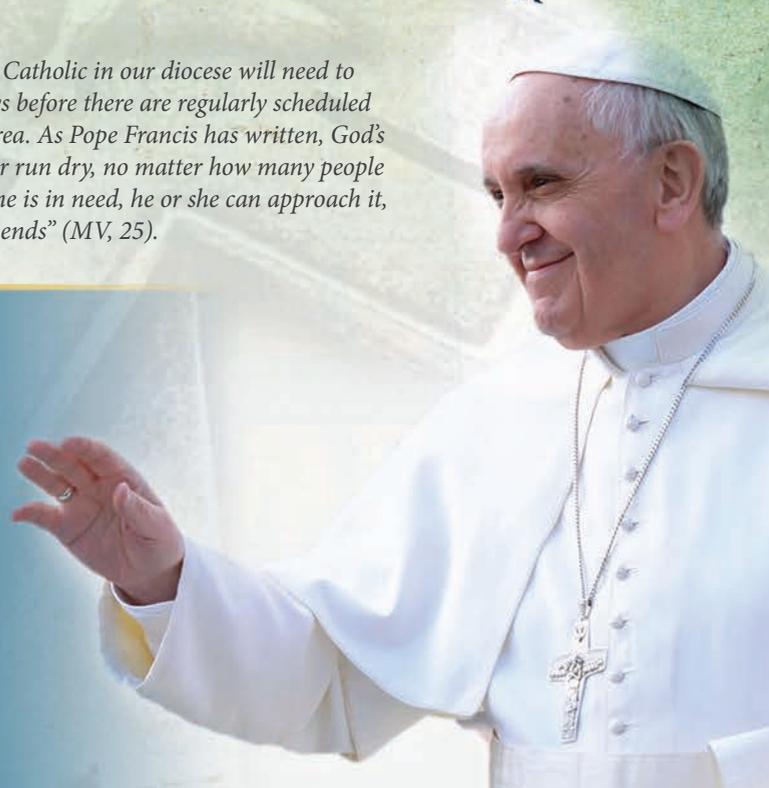
Vicariate II:
St. Matthew, Norwalk
TUESDAYS: 7:00pm - 8:30pm
Assumption, Westport
THURSDAYS: 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Vicariate III:
Our Lady of the Assumption, Fairfield
TUESDAYS: 7:00pm - 8:30pm
St. Pius X, Fairfield
THURSDAYS: 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Vicariate IV:
St. Catherine of Siena, Trumbull
TUESDAYS: 7:00pm - 8:30pm
St. Theresa, Trumbull
THURSDAYS: 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Vicariate V:
St. Joseph, Brookfield
TUESDAYS: 7:00pm - 8:30pm
Sacred Heart, Danbury
THURSDAYS: 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Vicariate VI:
St. Augustine Cathedral, Bridgeport
TUESDAYS: 7:00pm - 8:30pm
St. Charles Borromeo, Bridgeport
THURSDAYS: 7:00pm - 8:30pm



EDITORIAL

See for yourself

What makes a Catholic school special? They are nurturing, family-oriented environments with excellent academics and state-of-the-art technology encouraging each student's social, emotional and spiritual development. But as you read through the special Catholic Schools supplement, one feature stands out above all others.

"Even our Pre-K students are involved in helping others," says the entry from St. Mary School in Bethel. "In December, the Pre-K class became 'Chem Buddies' with patients undergoing chemotherapy at Danbury Praxair Cancer Center. They decorated cards and wrote special messages to cheer up those who needed it the most."

At St. Rose of Lima in Newtown, students shared their own money to buy supermarket gift cards for families at a poor inner-city school. At St. Raphael Academy in Bridgeport, itself an inner-city school, the entire school community contributed gifts of socks, warm hats and T-shirts for the veterans living at Homes for the Brave. At St. Catherine Academy in Fairfield for special needs children, students make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches—300 each month—for the homeless served by the Merton Center in Bridgeport.

At Immaculate High School in Danbury, during the 2014-15 school year, students completed 17,838 hours of service. Every grade and every school, from students barely three years old to those college bound, tells a similar story. They learn to love and serve Jesus through acts of service and kindness.

It's worth seeing for yourself.

Appeal begins in prayer

The Annual Catholic Appeal began quietly and powerfully again this year with a Mass and kickoff reception at St. Matthew Parish in Norwalk.

If the appeal draws spiritual strength from prayer, then it all starts on the altar as the bishop and pastors throughout the diocese concelebrate the traditional ACA opening Mass and call down the Lord's blessings on the work of the Church in Fairfield County. Last year's appeal was a great success, raising more than \$11.5 million for Church ministries and programs that serve people of all faiths throughout Fairfield County.

We have much to be thankful for—and many to be grateful to—beginning with the two priests who lead the Priest Advisory Council, Msgr. Laurence Bronkiewicz, chairman, and Father Reginald Norman, vice chairman of the PAC.

Likewise, we are equally grateful for our chair couple Julie and Rowan Taylor of New Canaan. At the reception following Mass, the bishop thanked Julie and Rowan for their outstanding, faithful and cheerful leadership—and for agreeing to chair the appeal again this year. He also welcomed the new vice-chair couples Maureen and Mike Considine of Stamford, and Elena and Steve Schlegel of New Canaan (profiled in this issue).

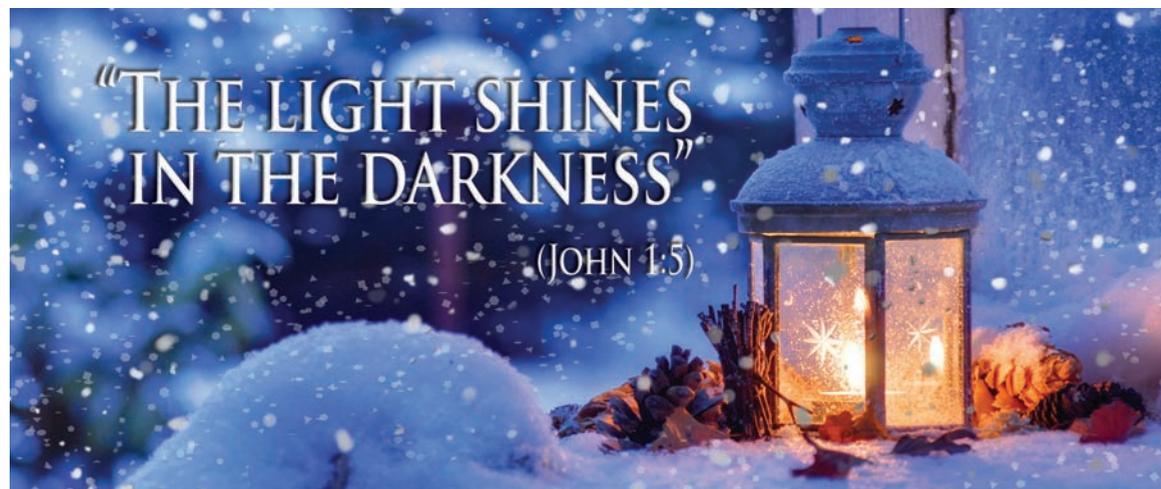
During this Year of Mercy in which Pope Francis has challenged us to reach out, the appeal gives us that opportunity. It represents the best of who we are as a diocese—the willingness to help the poor and vulnerable, to serve those in need, to educate our children in the faith, to foster vocations to the priesthood and religious life, to feed the sick and care for the elderly. The appeal begins in prayer and ends in action. Please join this important work.

'Ordinary' time

Bishop Caggiano provided us with a different perspective on the New Year with his recent Facebook reflection on "Ordinary Time," the liturgical season representing the "ordered life" of the Church in between the great feasts of Christmas and Easter.

"As we begin today the liturgical season of Ordinary Time with the feast of Baptism of the Lord, we must remember that there is nothing ordinary about our lives as disciples. The 'silent years' of Jesus' life before his ministry began have a powerful message to teach us about 'ordinary time.' Put simply, even our daily routines and ordinary tasks may not be exciting or even noteworthy, they equally make God present to us as in the extraordinary moments of our lives. God is with us in every moment, in every place, through every person we meet and in every quiet moment of prayer, petition and recollection. The sad truth is that we often miss God's presence in our lives, precisely because we become distracted in the ordinariness of life and only seek God in extraordinary moments."

The challenge is to overcome these distractions, to become more aware of God's presence in the ordinary moments of our lives, to become more prayerful and present—that's a New Year's resolution worth keeping. ■



CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

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

ADMINISTRATOR

REVEREND MONSIGNOR J. PETER CULLEN, Retired to temporary Administrator of Saint Clement of Rome Parish, Stamford. Effective date was January 5.

JUDGE

REVEREND ZBIGNIEW ZIELINSKI, new to Diocese to Judge for the Diocesan Tribunal. Father Zielinski will reside at Saint Stephen Parish, Trumbull. Effective date was January 1.

CHAPLAIN

REVEREND JOHN CONNAUGHTON, appointed to serve as Chaplain for the Serra Club of the Diocese of Bridgeport. Effective date was December 1.

PAROCHIAL VICAR

REVEREND UDAYAKUMAR XAVARIAPITCHAI, new to Diocese to Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Grace Parish, Stratford. Effective date is February 5.

RESIDENCE

REVEREND DAVID RILEY, Retired, Saint Mary Parish,

Ridgefield to Saint Peter Parish, Danbury. Effective date was December 1.

EPISCOPAL CHAPLAIN

REVEREND BRUCE ROBY, Parochial Vicar, Saint James Parish, Stratford to Episcopal Chaplain to Sacred Heart University, Fairfield. Father Roby will reside at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Fairfield. Effective date is January 31.

IN-RESIDENCE

REVEREND PAUL CHECK, Executive Director of "Courage International" in residence Saint Mary Parish, Norwalk to Saint Benedict-Our Lady of Montserrat Parish, Stamford. Effective date is February 1.

DEACON

DEACON JEFFREY KINGSLEY, Deacon, Saint Joseph Parish, Shelton to Deacon, Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque Parish, Shelton. Effective date was January 4.

DEACON JOHN MORANSKI, Deacon, Saint Stephen Parish, Trumbull to Deacon, Holy Family

Parish, Fairfield. Effective date is February 1.

OTHER

REVEREND MICHAEL BOCCACCIO, appointed to serve the offices of Defender of the Bond and Promoter of Justice in Tribunal. Father Boccaccio will continue to serve as Pastor, Saint Philip Parish, Norwalk. Effective date was January 12.

REVEREND ALFONSO PICONE, appointed to serve as Rector of *Redemptoris Mater*. Father Picone will continue to serve as Pastor, Sacred Heart Parish, Stamford. Effective date was December 8.

REVEREND GIANDOMENICO FLORA, appointed to serve as Spiritual Director of *Redemptoris Mater*. Father Flora will continue to serve as Rector, Saint Margaret Shrine, Bridgeport. Effective date was December 8.

Reverend Ian Jeremiah,
Episcopal Vicar for Clergy
January, 2016

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Editorial



The splinter in your brother's eye

SWIMMING UPSTREAM

BY JOE PISANI

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

Without intending to, Pope Francis dashed my hopes of becoming the next Mother Teresa when he said a real sign that you're headed for sainthood is you never speak ill of anyone.

In modern America, is there anyone who has never criticized someone, who doesn't backbite or gossip? I'm not that person, and none of the people I hang out with can claim that distinction, which means to say, I foresee a long time of purification in purgatory before I make it to the Big Time.

We're addicted to the water cooler culture, where criticism is a way of life. And what about Donald Trump and the rest of the presidential contenders? The Donald is always casting aspersions, along with every talk radio host and newspaper columnist. Bad-mouthing is an American tradition, and one of our most popular pastimes is grumbling about the splinter in your brother's eye without noticing the log in your own.

During his homily at a recent Mass, Pope Francis started talking about the sinful practice of maligning other people and

said that despite the long and complicated process for determining if someone is a saint, "If you find a person who never, never, never spoke ill of another, you could canonize him or her immediately."

I confess that it's one of my worst character defects, and I'm having a hard time controlling it. I've probably been like this all my life but never really thought it was serious because it's so socially acceptable.

My mother must have known I was headed down this path because she used to admonish me with those time-honored words, "If you can't say something nice about someone, then don't say anything at all." And my father, who was in Alcoholics Anonymous for the last 25 years of his life and had an abundance of spiritual advice, would regularly tell me to "Take your own inventory."

Jesus certainly had a lot to say about the topic, and he told his disciples in no uncertain terms, "Judge not and you will not be

judged; do not condemn and you will not be condemned."

Pope Francis also said: "The first step is to accuse yourself," which means give yourself an honest self-assessment and then ask Christ's forgiveness and praise his mercy. "The man and woman who don't learn to acknowledge their own failings become hypocrites. Everyone, eh? Everyone starting from the pope on down," he said.

The ability to recognize your own faults, which is actually a gift from the Holy Spirit, is the beginning of "this beautiful work of reconciliation, peace, tenderness, goodness, forgiveness, magnanimity and mercy that Jesus Christ brought."

It's so easy to criticize other people for what they do or don't do, especially when we're blind to our own faults. So much of what we think is acceptable behavior, because everyone else is doing it, is actually sinful behavior.

About a month ago, I began to pray to the Holy Spirit to show me my hidden faults, and

he didn't waste any time. Almost immediately, I had illuminating insights into my behavior and became aware of flaws and shortcomings I never knew existed. It wasn't a pleasant experience, but I figure it was better to learn about them now than at my personal judgment before Christ.

Since then, I've started to do an end-of-the-day examination of conscience as a part of my spiritual self-improvement program, and I try to remember my day moment-by-moment and ask the Holy Spirit to show everything to me in all its disturbing detail.

Inevitably, I recall occasions when I criticized coworkers or gossiped or took someone else's inventory: Who wasn't doing his work, who was a blow-hard and who was a self-promoter. The crazy thing is that I share most of the traits that upset me in others.

As my father, ever the folk philosopher, often told me: "Live and let live." Or more appropriately, "You can't see the picture if you're in the frame." ■



The Hennesseys make Confession

A DAD'S VIEW

BY MATTHEW HENNESSEY

Matthew Hennessey and his family are parishioners of St. Aloysius in New Canaan.

We made a family confession. I know that sounds like we subjected ourselves to some bizarre public humiliation ritual. We didn't.

The director of religious education at our parish graciously arranged for interested families to come for the sacrament together on a Saturday morning. Our priests graciously gave their time. The Hennesseys graciously dragged their carcasses out of bed.

For Patrick and Magdalena it was their first time. Both did great, sitting face-to-face with the priest, though I can't imagine

what they might have had to confess to. I'm not saying that they're innocent of all wrongdoing. I have a file on both of them. But they are well below the age of culpability.

I always prep my kids by saying, "You're too young to have done anything too terrible, but this is a good habit to get into. When you're my age you'll have plenty to confess." In other words, tell God what you did, but don't sweat it too much. It's a fine line with kids.

My wife worked with Magdalena for months—learning the act of contrition, rehearsing what would happen when she

entered the confessional, coming up with a few minor misdemeanors she might want to cop to.

I wish I could say I helped out. My sole contribution was my usual contribution: blind optimism.

"Everything will be all right in the end." That's my mantra. Luckily I married a woman who has the good sense to know when things might go horribly wrong. She was right about 9/11 (it was as bad as it seemed); I was right about Superstorm Sandy (that tree by the driveway did not fall on the house). We make a good team.

Magdalena has Down syndrome. I don't know about everyone with Down syndrome, but Magdalena doesn't appreciate "surprises." She's best when she can learn a script and deliver her lines.

If that seems contrary to the spirit of the sacrament of reconciliation, believe me when I say that the alternative is worse. We've bailed on more than our share of birthday parties and doctor's visits when some slight change

in the atmosphere threatened to derail our plans.

In short—Magdalena likes to know what's coming. Who can blame her? The world can be an unreliable place. We did our best to make sure that things went according to the script she had learned. Oh, to have been a fly on the wall.

In the end, the coaching paid off. Magdalena emerged from the confessional with a smile as big as any I've seen in all her nine years. "I did it!" she announced to a chapel full of penitent fellow Catholics. Punch has never been so pleased. Hallelujah, amen, and thanks be to God.

Paddy went next—a home run. Our Clara, an old pro, went next. Then me. Then it was my wife's turn.

Ursula has some old-school habits that she finds hard to break. The face-to-face booth isn't for her. She says she can't concentrate on contrition unless she's in the kneeling position.

Holing up in the "anonymous booth" also allows her to sneak peeks at the notes she's written

on her hands. I like the metaphor—write the sins on your hands, go to Confession, wash your hands, watch your sins slide down the drain.

Boom! You are forgiven. We all left the chapel with the peace and refreshment that comes from knowing in your heart that you are a little bit closer to God than you were five minutes ago. It's tonic for the soul and it's 100 percent free. I recommend it.

Confession is hard for most people. It's hard for me, too. I don't go nearly as often as I should. But as our pastor, Monsignor Scheyd, is fond of saying, we shouldn't think of Confession as punishment.

Nor should we think of it as a gloomy occasion for guilt and shame and all those other bad things that people imagine Catholics wallow in. Rather, we should think of Confession as a source of strength.

So be strong. Get strong. Go to Confession. Just do it.

(Follow Matthew on Twitter (@matthennessey)) ■

Consecrated Life

Meet Sister Anna

For the final entry in the yearlong profile of women and men in consecrated life, *Fairfield County Catholic* visited Sister Anna Rodriguez at Mary Immaculate Day Care Center in Bridgeport. As a fun-loving girl growing up in Connecticut's largest city, Anna had little interest in religion. In an interesting twist, time spent with her then-finance in Eucharistic Adoration led to an abrupt change of life and entry into a religious order.

Name: Sister Anna Rodriguez, MSSMI

Hometown: Bridgeport

**Order/Institute/
Congregation:** Missionary Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and Mary Immaculate. "Our charism is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and education in missions to the poorest communities."

Years in Vowed Profession: "I professed my first vows here in Bridgeport in 1981 and my final vows in Spain in 1987."

Ministry, now or formerly: "I was one of the founders of our con-

vent in Plainfield, N.J., and was novice mistress here in Bridgeport. I went from here to Spain, then to Mexico in 2002 where we had a convent in Tijuana. We worked with children and adults, ran Marriage Encounter retreats, visited nursing homes, staffed a women's center and established a clinic and a computer center. We worked especially with women, helping them to be able to have their own business and build a sense of empowerment in a culture that often denigrates women.

After Mexico I went to the Philippines. We opened our first house in Asia, with a soup kitchen and clinic.

"We have a daycare program here, with four classes of children, classroom and play time and a healthy, home-cooked lunch. More than that, we follow our charism by introducing the children to Adoration at their age level, singing and praising with simple tunes like 'Jesus I love you, Jesus you are my friend.' Adoration is one of our anchors and we want to share it, to make Jesus part of their lives.

"We work with families, here, too. People are losing family life. We hold Days of Recollection to

build family relationships."

Sister Anna is also Director of Religious Education (DRE) at St. Peter Parish in Bridgeport and has been assisting at St. Ann Parish, in the city's Black Rock section, which has started celebrating a Sunday Mass in Spanish.

A favorite image or title for Jesus that resonates with me: "Jesus is my friend, my best friend. I can trust my friend. I can sit and talk with my friend for hours. He's constantly taking me by the hand and saying 'Don't worry, I'm here.' At times when there's darkness in my life, he will sit down and have coffee with me."

Person who influenced my faith life: "My father. We weren't a church-going family. I got baptized because everybody gets baptized. But at some point when I was too young to understand, he made a Cursillo and became a devout Catholic. He was a construction worker. When he got home from work he'd shower, change and go out again. He'd say, 'I'm going to see my friend.' When I asked my mother what he meant, she shook her head and said, 'Oh, church again.' He was going to spend time in Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. Then he would come home and eat.

"He took me to Adoration before my Confirmation. He said 'Open your heart and let the Lord in.' That was all. He never told



me what to do."

A Connecticut place I especially like: "I love the mountains. I feel I'm closer to heaven there. I was a skier, and I especially loved the mountains in New Hampshire. When I was sad, I liked to go to East Mountain in Waterbury. I felt like the whole world was spread out before me. I still like to hike in Sleeping Giant State Park and in Naugatuck Park.

If I could have lunch with a saint it would be: "St. Bernadette, because she showed me the love of Mary, and St. Augustine because he was a wild person and I was pretty wild, too—lots of discos and parties."

What "rocks my world" today: "Technology, in a good sense. You can get connected anywhere, in any place. It's something grand, that we can get so much positive information. For young men and young women, there's a lot out there for you."

Something I most appreciate about community life: "Even though we're different, we have the same ideal. It's just like a family where we talk together, laugh together, cry together. Without having someone there for you, everything can fall apart."

An interesting fact about me: "One of the things I would love to do is to drive every state in the U.S. just to see the people. I would like to drive to every place where a person is in need, just to listen to them. I love to sit down and listen, even if I don't have the answers."

Slogan that I would give my life: "Be happy. Don't be afraid. Give what you've got."

What I would say to someone considering choosing Consecrated Life: "Great! It's a wonderful gift. First, waste time with Christ, sit down and listen to him. Love the Lord with all your heart and everything will fall into place." ■

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St. Thomas science fair

FAIRFIELD—Each year, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School holds a Science Fair for students in grades 6, 7, and 8. The students select their own topic and are able to work in pairs. A 300-word report must be submitted along with a Scientific Method Board explaining and documenting their experiment. On December 10, all projects were displayed in the gymnasium and a panel of 12 guest judges selected the winners. The students who were awarded First Place in grades 7 and 8 will have the opportunity to participate at the Connecticut Science Fair. It

is with great pride that St. Thomas School announces the winners of this year's Science Fair, and wishes the 7th and 8th graders luck and success at the state-wide competition. Winners are:

6th Grade:

1st Place: Avery Woodworth, Grace McCormack and Isabella Fiano: *Sugar Content of Drinks*
2nd Place: Anastasia Van Batenburg, Cortney LaPointe and Michelle Bartolone: *Does Vinegar Kill Germs?*
3rd Place: Molly O'Neill and Viviane Caine: *Effectiveness on High Bacteria Faraday's Law*

7th Grade:

1st Place: Sebastian Machado: *Heated Roof Shingles*
2nd Place: Scarlett Rollins and Erin McHugh: *Smoking and Lungs*
3rd Place: Clare McCurley and Caitlin May: *Hovercraft*

8th Grade:

1st Place: Maeve Foley and Julia Rush: *Aircraft Invisibility*
2nd Place: Sophie Chorek and Katie Cimmino: *Water vs. Soil For Growing Plants*
3rd Place: Julia DiCesare: *Determining Jelly Bean Count With An Equation* ■

Education

Kolbe teacher receives 'Making a Difference' award

GREENWICH—David Hill, a teacher at Kolbe Cathedral High School, received the Tim Russert "Making a Difference" award. The award, established in 2000 by the late Tim Russert, the award honors a teacher who has impacted students' lives both in and out of the classroom, and the academic community as well.

Hill was honored on

ent of the award a few years ago, I am honored to see someone like David rewarded for his commitment to Catholic schools and the mission that teachers are dedicated to each day."

Hill has been a member of Kolbe's faculty in the religion department since 2008. Over the last seven years he has become the "go-to guy" for all aspects

The students can rely on him to help them organize canned goods/food drives, plan Knowledge Bowl competitions, decorate the gym or prom venue to suit the theme, and more, and more, and more.

Hill has attended the Anti Defamation League's "Bearing Witness" program in New York, as well as many other professional development opportunities that he utilizes to better serve the students of KCHS.

Since 1992, the Inner-City Foundation for Charity & Education has awarded more than \$27 million in grants. In addition to providing scholarship funds for students in diocesan schools, organizations receiving grants include the Boys & Girls Club of Stamford, Cardinal Shehan Center, Caroline House, Homes with Hope, Kids in Crisis, and many others.

The Midtown Men were the featured performers at the event. Five-time Emmy Award winner Dave Price was master of ceremonies.

Daniel McCarthy, president and CEO of Frontier Communications Corporation, served as corporate committee chair. Missy and Jim O'Shaughnessy and Sabrina and Walter Raquet chaired the 2015 Benefit Committee. They were assisted by Audrey and Daniel Dornier, Helen and Dan FitzPatrick, Janie and Dean Gestal, Vilma and Dick Matteis, and Bill and Sue Mitchell who served as co-chairs of the 2015 Benefit Committee.



KOLBE RELIGION TEACHER David Hill accepted the "Making a Difference" award at the Inner-City Foundation dinner. (PHOTO BY ELAINE UBINA/FAIRFIELD COUNTY LOOK)

November 18 at the Hyatt Regency Greenwich during the Annual Benefit dinner of the Inner-City Foundation for Charity & Education. The event raised over \$1 million to support programs throughout Fairfield County that serve needy and at-risk children and adults.

"David is a great example for our students of how to "Work hard and Be nice," our school motto," says Kolbe's principal, Henry Rondon. "As proud recipi-

ent of school life; always a willing volunteer at dances, trips, special events. But beyond that, Hill has taken a role in helping to cultivate student leadership. He helps to organize the student leaders who assist with Cougar Teams, the monthly program to highlight and raise awareness of the Gospel values. He is the moderator of the Student Council, advisor to the senior class, a member of the Student Advocacy Board, and manager of the school bookstore.

TRIBUNAL FROM PAGE 3

as judicial vicar and as a Tribunal judge.

The diocese has also announced that, in response to the new norms, it will no longer charge fees related to applying for an annulment.

The restructuring, announced by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano in December, involves re-indexing of the current files and setting priorities; implementation of the new software to manage court cases and canonical procedures; training of the Tribunal staff and development of new forms and literature for all involved in the process.



Msgr. Zielonka said those who have already submitted their cases will be assigned priority status in the new Tribunal, and he expects that all will be processed faster with new procedures. Consistent

with the new norms, any sentences issued by the new Tribunal will not be required to go for approval of the Second Instance Tribunal in Hartford.

"The Petitioner, Respondent or Defender of the Bond might choose to appeal the decision to the Second Instance but if not, Bridgeport Tribunal's decision will become executable within 15 days of the sentence," he said.

The Tribunal is the forum in which the judicial authority of the bishop is exercised. It is responsible for investigating and adjudicating matters that need to be resolved according to the norms and procedures established by Church law. Most of the work of the Tribunal is devoted to processing marriage nullity cases.

"The new norms in Canon Law enable us to process cases faster than before. The norms also introduce a shorter process for those who qualify and that may prove a great advance," said Msgr. Zielonka. "Hopefully people will find the process much easier."

Two-hour training sessions in the new norms are also being held for priests and deacons in January and February, so that they can help parishioners and become advocates for those who wish to apply for an annulment. The class will include a brief review of the annulment process; acceptable grounds; the modified normal process; the new shortened process; the role of advocates (the clergy, especially pastors); presentation of the new forms and literature. Each of the two-hour sessions will be held at St. Jude Parish in Monroe.

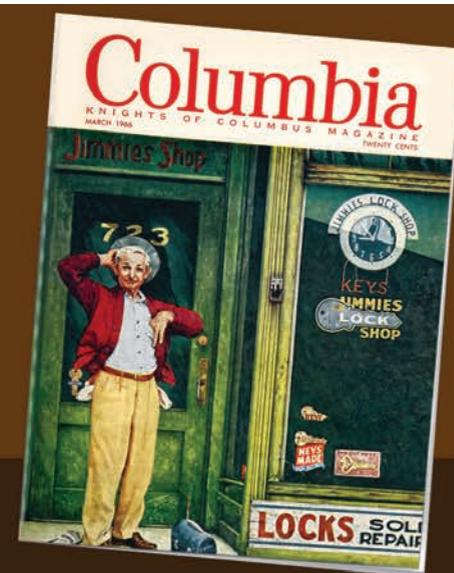
(As part of its restructuring, the Tribunal will introduce a new website outlining the new process and including online forms. Go directly to the Tribunal website at: www.dob-tribunal.com, or visit the Tribunal section of the diocesan website at www.bridgeportdiocese.com.)

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Deacons Gathering

Finding 'untapped' vocations to the diaconate

NORWALK—Noting that “there are many untapped vocations” to the diaconate throughout the Diocese of Bridgeport, Bishop Frank J. Caggiano asked deacons at a meeting on January 7 to encourage other men to consider the diaconate ministry.

Speaking to almost 80 deacons and their wives in the Great Room of St. Matthew Parish in Norwalk, the bishop told deacons that no one is closer to the diaconate ministry than they are.

“You know it best. So keep your eyes and your heart open for vocations,” the bishop said, urging deacons to identify men who may be interested in preparing for ordination to the diaconate ministry.

During the hour and a half long meeting, the bishop reviewed the new Diaconate Personnel Manual, which he promulgated for use in the Diocese of Bridgeport effective January 6, 2016.

Referring to the diaconate as a “sacred and noble vocation,” the bishop said that the service of the deacons to the Church is unique because they are fully immersed in the secular world, while also being ordained to serve the peo-



A VOCATION TO SERVE—Speaking to almost 80 deacons and their wives in the Great Room of St. Matthew Parish in Norwalk, the bishop told deacons that no one is closer to the diaconate ministry than they are and he asked them to keep their eyes out for new vocations to the diaconate.

ple of God in communion with the bishop and priests.

The bishop began the meeting by thanking the deacons and wives for their service to the Church. He said the hallmark of good ministry is that it is done quietly and often anonymously.

“By doing so, you allow Christ’s love to shine through and you do it in a selfless way that is pleasing to the Lord, and also makes me very proud,” he said.

The bishop also thanked Deacon Louis Howe and all the members of the Diaconal Council who have worked over the past

year to complete the personnel manual. A new priest personnel

manual will follow next fall.

The bishop said the new manual is important because “it sets clarity of expectations” between pastors and deacons concerning parish assignments and responsibilities.

He said a new template in the manual includes “terms of assignment” and a ministerial agreement that each deacon will work out with pastors and finalize by February 5.

The first class of permanent deacons of the Diocese of Bridgeport was ordained by Bishop Walter W. Curtis, second Bishop of Bridgeport on February 25, 1978. At present, there are 81 active deacons and 33 retired dea-

cons in the diocese.

In September of 2015, Deacon Anthony P. Cassaneto, Ph.D, was named director of the diaconate for the Diocese of Bridgeport by Bishop Caggiano. Since that time he has worked with a diaconate committee to produce the new personnel manual and to transform the Diaconate Formation Program. The next Diaconate Formation Class, reflecting the new diaconate program in the diocese, is set to begin in September 2017.

(For more info on the Permanent Diaconate Program of the Diocese of Bridgeport, contact Deacon Cassaneto: 203.416.1451 or dncassaneto@diobpt.org.)

CAPP holds educators breakfast in March

FAIRFIELD—Thomas W. Burnford will be the keynote speaker at Sacred Heart University’s Eighth Annual Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice (CAPP) Educators’ Communion Breakfast on Sunday, March 13. His talk is titled “Why I Send My Kids to Catholic School.”

Burnford, secretary for education for the Archdiocese of Washington, currently serves as the interim president for the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA). Burnford has extensive knowledge and experience working with the NCEA, having served on its board for the 2014-15 academic school year and as a member for over a decade. His speech is expected to be enlightening and inspirational.

As secretary for education, Burnford manages the superintendent of Catholic Schools, director for catechesis and 22 professional staff members. He is responsible for the oversight of Catholic education, including executive leadership of a system of 94 Catholic schools and 139 parish religious education programs serving over 50,000 students and 30,000 adults.

His experience and expertise spans all levels of education and administration, from classroom to boardroom. Some of the highlights of Burnford’s two-decade career in the archdiocese include developing and implementing new policies for Catholic schools that involve strengthening Catholic identity, establishing regional school agreements and designing protocols for school viability planning. He’s worked with Cardinal Donald Wuerl to increase tuition assistance to \$5.8 million (from \$800,000 in 2007) for students, lobbies and advocates for initiatives at the local, state and national levels and, most recently, was involved in planning and celebrating the visit of Pope Francis in Washington, D.C.

Before the CAPP breakfast, which will take place in University Commons, a tour of the Chapel of the Holy Spirit will take place, followed by Mass.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano will be the celebrant for the 9 am Mass. He has spoken of the need to build bridges to youth, to all those who are troubled or feel neglected and to Catholics who no longer participate in the life of the church.

CAPP was founded in 1993



THOMAS W. BURNFORD

to encourage business people, academics and other professionals to study and promote Catholic social teaching. It is named for Pope John Paul’s encyclical of the same name that marked the 100th anniversary of the landmark papal document on social responsibility, *Rerum Novarum*. The Diocese of Bridgeport is one of three pioneering dioceses in the United States to establish a chapter.

(Tickets for the event are \$35 each or \$300 for a table of 10. For more info or for tickets, visit www.sacredheart.edu/CAPP2016 for more information or to register.)

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Travel

Reflections on Israel

By NINA M. RICCIO

It's impossible to sum up a trip to the Holy Land in a few sentences—or a week. But after a “Catholic Pilgrimage to the Holy Land” weeklong tour put together by the Israeli Ministry of Tourism, I'm giving it a try.

This is a 68-year-old country with a history measured in millennia. It's a nation full of surprises, a place where Jews and Muslims live and work side-by-side in the market, shop in each other's stores and share so much in terms of cuisine and history and religion. You'd never expect that from listening to the news.

I learned that the River Jordan is narrow enough to skip a stone across, that the Second Temple was almost a quarter the size of



THE GIFT OF THE LAND: hummus, tabouli, baba ganoush, and others, were on the table for the Nina Riccio and other Catholic journalists at Eldiar restaurant in Haifa.

the entire city of Jerusalem, and that it's illegal to cut down an olive tree.

One of our first stops was Caesarea, a once-important port city built by King Herod. (He was paranoid, a lousy husband and ordered the killing of Jewish firstborns, but he did leave a legacy of great buildings behind.) It boasted an aqueduct, theatre, and a palace fit for a king. It was also home to Cornelius and his family, among the first non-Jews to be converted to Christianity.

Later that day, we headed to Nazareth, known as the “Arab capital” of Israel. I found out that Jesus was never really accepted in his hometown of Nazareth and Christianity didn't become as entrenched there as it did in

the area around Galilee. But Nazareth is home to the Basilica of the Annunciation, built over the site of the humble home where the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her she was to give birth to Jesus.

Near the basilica, a controversial billboard had loomed for years, admonishing Christians to question the Trinity and warning them that there is no God but Allah. That billboard has since been taken down and replaced with one that calls for respect for all religions. It was a reminder to all of us that tensions in the region often simmer just below the surface, even when daily life continues as usual.

It was Friday when we stopped at the beautiful Stella Maris Monastery perched atop Haifa's Mt. Carmel. This is the home of the Carmelites, who founded a “hosteleria” there in the 17th century, a combination of hostel and hospital for pilgrims who had travelled for months to reach the Holy Land and were always exhausted and often sick when they arrived. A visiting nun mesmerized us with a beautiful rendition of “Ave Maria”—just one of those spontaneous outbursts of religious fervor that happened often.

But what seemed more significant was the Muslim call to prayer we heard over the minaret's loudspeaker just an hour later. Because it was Friday at midday, the call to prayer was several minutes long, and all Muslim men were expected to go to mosque. Listening to the two expressions of religious belief within such a short time was a reminder of just how important this tiny stretch of land is to so many millions of people.

We arrived in Jerusalem on a rainy night, to a city with a rich and colorful history and deep religious passions. It would have been worth spending a week in Jerusalem alone. In the two short days we were there, we saw the Dead Sea scrolls in the Israel Museum, the archeological dig surrounding the Temple Mount, and visited a few of the Stations of the Cross through which the narrow, crowded marketplace winds.

While we didn't tour the iconic Dome of the Rock, its

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



NOT CHILLY, definitely not wide. The Bible doesn't say exactly where on the River Jordan John baptized Jesus, so the whole river is considered sacred. These visitors are standing on the Jordanian side.

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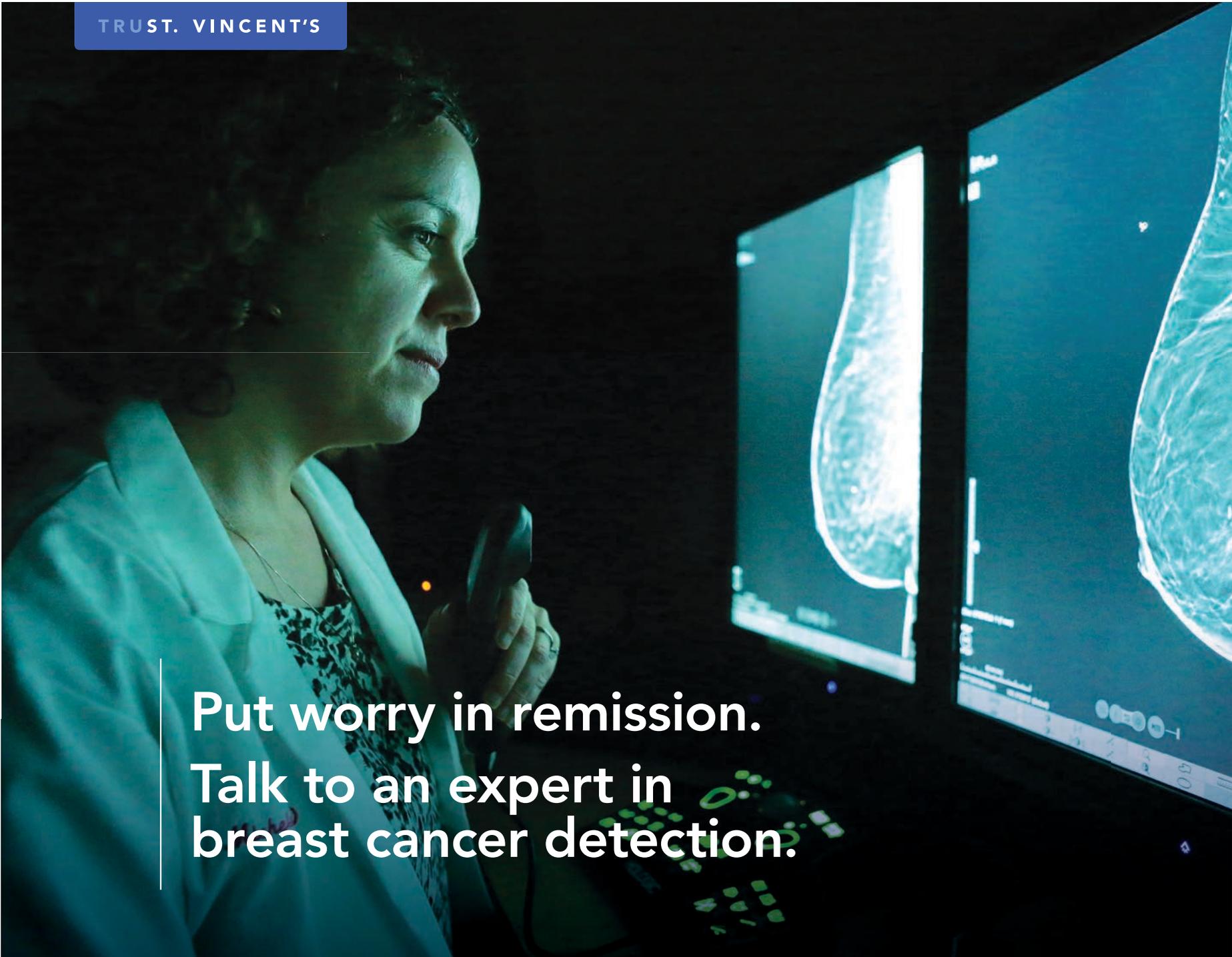
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Obituaries

Pastor of St. Clement, Stamford

STAMFORD—Father Joseph J. Malloy, 71, pastor of St. Clement of Rome Parish in Stamford, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family and close friends on January 2, 2016, at Stamford Hospital.

He was born in Stamford on February 21, 1944, to the late Joseph and Helen Malloy. Father Malloy attended Holy Name of Jesus School and St. Basil's Prep before attending St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield, in 1964 and St. Bonaventure University in Olean, NY, graduating in 1966 with an A.A. degree and a B.A.

degree in philosophy.

While attending Holy Name Elementary School he belonged to the Boy Scouts of America for nine years, attaining Life Rank, and later worked as a counselor at Camp Toquam in Goshen, CT.

He was ordained on May 9, 1970, at St. Augustine Cathedral in Bridgeport by Bishop Walter W. Curtis. Father Malloy's appointments started at St. James Parish in Stratford as parochial vicar, then at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull. He was named pastor of St. Ann Parish in the Black Rock sec-

tion of Bridgeport in 1987, and became pastor of St. Clement on February 1, 2002.

Father Malloy also served as chaplain in the U.S. Army Reserves, having completed the basic course at Fort Hamilton, N.Y., and he was appointed chaplain of the Stratford Eagles Squadron Civil Air Patrol on November 24, 1970. He was a member and chaplain of the Nichols Fire Dept. of Trumbull and served as chaplain with the Bridgeport Fire Dept. He was a Third Degree member of the Knights of Columbus, St. Augustine Council #41.

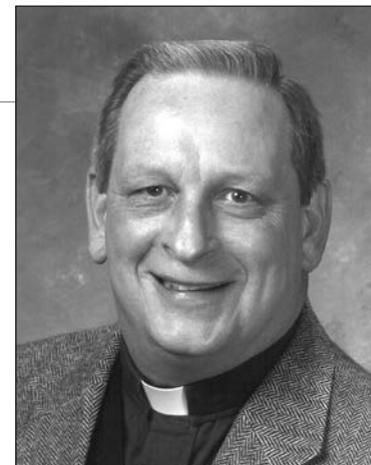
"He was not only a chaplain, he drove the trucks and was an active firefighter," says Msgr. J. Peter Cullen, who was named temporary administrator of St.

Clement's after Father Malloy's death. Firefighting was so important to him that he went through classes to be certified both as a driver and a firefighter.

The care was reciprocated by the men he served. "The firemen marched up the aisle, two by two in full uniform, for the parish vigil," says his sister-in-law, Priscilla Malloy. "It meant so much to the family to have them there."

Father Malloy's helmet, BFD-10, was buried with him.

The Parish Vigil Mass was celebrated for Father Malloy on January 5. His close friend, Father Michael Boccaccio, pastor of St. Philip Parish in Norwalk, was the celebrant; Father Frank Gomez, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bridgeport, delivered the



FATHER JOSEPH J. MALLOY

homily. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Clement on January 6. Bishop Frank J. Caggiano was the principal celebrant; Father Boccaccio gave the homily. Interment followed at St. John's Cemetery, Darien.

Father Malloy is survived by his sister Dale Malloy, his brother Donald Malloy, his sister-in-law Priscilla Malloy, all of Stamford. He was predeceased by his brother, Deacon Wayne Malloy. ■

Founder of Our Lady of Fatima

Msgr. Constantine Ribeiro Caldas, founding pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Portuguese Parish in Bridgeport, died on December 21 in Portugal, where he had retired.

Msgr. Caldas was born on January 13, 1926, in Lara Moncao, Portugal. He was prepared for the priesthood at Seminario de Braga, and his ordination to the priesthood took place in the Archdiocese of Braga on July 8, 1951.

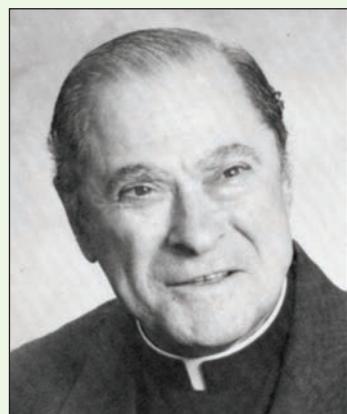
He first ministered as a diocesan priest and pastor in the Diocese of Viano do Castelo. In April 1956, the young priest came to the U.S. to serve the Portuguese Catholics in the Diocese of Bridgeport, who were concentrated near St. Augustine Parish. He celebrated Mass at St. Augustine Cathedral and with the assistance of Bishop Lawrence Shehan, first Bishop of Bridgeport, became the founding pastor of the first Portuguese parish in the diocese, Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Bridgeport.

One of Bishop Shehan's last official acts in this diocese was the approval of the construction plans for Our Lady of Fatima Church. Msgr. Caldas oversaw the construction of the church and served there from 1961 until 1996, when he retired.

On November 26, 1984, Msgr. Caldas was incardinated into the Diocese of Bridgeport. He was made an Honorary Prelate of His Holiness, with the title of Monsignor, by Pope John Paul II on July 14, 1988. Msgr. Caldas was the chaplain of the Building and Construction Anchor Club, a center for many of the Portuguese immigrants who had come to this country to work in construction. He was also the diocesan advisor for the Portuguese Language Cursillo of Fairfield County.

He had lived at St. Joseph Manor, Trumbull, during retirement before moving to Portugal to be near family.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in Portugal on December 22, and Msgr. Caldas was buried in the family gravesite. A memorial Mass was celebrated for him at Our Lady of Fatima Church on Saturday, December 26, at 10:30 am. ■



MSGR. CONSTANTINE
RIBEIRO CALDAS

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ISRAEL FROM PAGE 15

majestic gold dome was visible from every vantage point in the city. Jerusalem is under Israeli control, but the Dome and the Al Aqsa mosque are both under the jurisdiction of Jordanian Islamic authorities. It's another of the compromises made to ensure peace and honor the traditions of people of different faiths.

Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulchre, said to be the holiest site in Christendom, was built on Mt. Golgotha, where Christ was crucified. It's a massive church reflecting the different styles of the various Christian sects that control it, and it incorporates the last four Stations of the Cross, the rock upon which the Cross is said to have stood, and the tomb of Jesus. It's an interesting place with a peculiar history, but it was difficult to feel moved with so much gold and crystal around. How much more emotional it would have been to see the rock upon which the Cross stood, rather than to feel it through a small hole under an altar!

But if emotional is what you want, a trip to Yad Vashem, the memorial to victims of the Holocaust, is essential. Yad Vashem means "the memorial of the names." Each exhibit is a stunning reminder of just how insidious bigotry and evil can be, and of man's capacity to justify what is unjustifiable.

I found that what moved me most were not the grand churches and shrines, but the simplicity of the ancient, gnarly olive trees "bearing witness" in the Garden of Gethsemane, or watching the waves on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, or hearing the church bells ringing outside my window in Jerusalem, followed a few minutes later by the Muslim call to prayer from the mosque further down the street.



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PRINCIPALS FROM the five diocesan high schools received a great present when they visited the bishop's office just before Christmas. Each school was presented a \$100,000 check representing this year's dispersal from the Faith in the Future Endowment Fund. Bishop Caggiano, Sister Mary Grace Walsh and Msgr. Laurence Bronkiewicz, Chairperson of the Faith in the Future Board, were on hand for the informal presentation. The funds will help Immaculate High School in Danbury, Kolbe Cathedral High School in Bridgeport, St. Joseph High School in Trumbull, Trinity Catholic High School in Stamford, and Notre Dame High School in Fairfield. The fund was established in 1996 by the late Edward Cardinal Egan when he served as Bishop of Bridgeport. A Stewardship Report on Faith in the Future has been printed in the December issue of *Fairfield County Catholic* and is available online: www.bridgeportdiocese.com/financialreports

Back row: Henry Rondon, Principal of Kolbe High School; Mary Maloney, President of Immaculate High School; Bishop Frank J. Caggiano; Msgr. Laurence Bronkiewicz, Chairman of Faith in Future Fund board; Dr. James Keane, Principal St. Joseph High School; Chris Cipriano, Principal of Notre Dame High School in Fairfield; Msgr. Thomas Powers, Vicar General; Joseph Gerics, Principal Trinity High School, Stamford.

Front row: Joseph Carmen, Principal Immaculate High School; Sister Mary Grace Walsh, former Superintendent of Schools; Jo-Anns Jakab, President Kolbe-Cathedral High School; Bill Fitzgerald, President of St. Joseph High School.

DECEASED CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT: JANUARY 24—FEBRUARY 20

JANUARY

- 27 Msgr. Francis G. Galla1996
- 28 Msgr. Joseph R. McCarthy1964
- 30 Msgr. John F. Cavanaugh1990
- Rev. James F. Desmond1963

FEBRUARY

- 26 Rev. Vincent P. Cleary1965
- 2 Rev. Joseph W. Kupec1978
- Deacon Bartholomew J. Mauceri2004
- 3 Msgr. Martin F. Doran1967
- Rev. Robert F. Albert1995
- 4 Msgr. William F.X. Casey1978
- 6 Msgr. Martin J. McDermott1986
- 8 Rev. James F. McGrath1971
- 10 Rev. William R. Nagle1979
- Rev. John R. Polinski2001
- 12 Rev. John J. Filip1984
- 13 Deacon Matthew Ashe2008
- Deacon Rodney L. Varney1988
- 17 Rev. George M. Karcinski2006
- 20 Msgr. Andrew J. Hajus1988

Column: Thomas Hicks



The Law of Life

POTPOURRI

BY THOMAS H. HICKS

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

Life as we know it is inextricable from change. Nothing stays still. Everything that has its beginning on earth must someday come to an end; all flesh is grass. As we all come to know, no hap-

piness lasts. There is the problem of "beauty that must die" (G.M. Hopkins, "The Leaden Echo"). There is no uninterrupted joy. Life goes on, closing over happiness as readily as it moves to ease sorrow. As Robert Frost said,

"I can sum up everything I've learned about life. It goes on." To accept life is to accept change and loss.

Change comes in many ways, some of them small or slight—a mere feather-touch, a little wind that ruffles the curtains at dawn—yet it can change one's whole being. Other times the switch has noticeably been tripped, and we know that our arrangement with life has been changed. The world changes complexion. There's a resetting of the compass, the birth of a new era.

Underlying all change there are things that do not change. Some things seem essential, everlastingly fixed and unchanging.

It's true what the old song says: "The fundamental things apply, as time goes by." The story begins all over again, the beat of the rhythm of life renews itself.

There will always be what Dickens called "the world's rain of tears" (*Great Expectations*).

There will always be the dark sea we all have to cross. The Imitation of Christ asserts that "You will never be free from solicitude; for in everything there will be found some defect, and in very place there will be someone who will cross you" (Bk.III, ch.27).

No one escapes some wounding early.

It's mistaken to fasten solely upon the negative realities. Beauty, goodness, and truth belong to our experience of life. To be human is also to rejoice and live in wonder.

Things usually balance out, if you give them enough time. "Man was made for joy and woe. Joy and woe are woven fine... as through the world we go." (William Blake, "Auguries of Innocence"). The world is full of beauty, majesty, and terror.

My long, practical struggle with life has taught me that among the changeless things is the "law of the echo," which holds that the world is arranged so that whatever you send out, e.g., honesty or dishonesty, kindness or cruelty, ultimately comes back to you. In the long run a person does indeed reap what he sows. It's a way of saying we make our own punishments in life, which I honestly believe is true. And life has phases. There is a season for everything.

The greatest change that comes in life is, of course, the one that comes at the end of life. I've come to the conclusion that mortality is not simply an evil; perhaps it is even a blessing. In so many situations, death is a release. Sometimes, it's time; time to be shaken from the tree. Enough already. Our play should have an end, and up come the lights.

I think a lot about the human life span. An interesting question is: Assuming that it were up to

you to set the human life span, where would you set the limit and why? Who would not want to avoid senility, crippling arthritis, the need for hearing aids and dentures, the humiliating dependence of old age? How much length of life is a blessing?

An unlimited amount of more of the same will not satisfy our deepest aspirations. Mere continuation will probably not bring fulfillment or more personal happiness.

I've heard many people state that they thought the human span was too long. One lady said to me: "Really, I've finished my life.

I finished it when the girls got grown and my husband passed away. But here I am, just hanging around, marking time, waiting for things to wind down.

I've outlived myself."

Anna Quindlen stated: "If the human body had a warranty, mine would have run out ages ago" (*Lots of Candles, Plenty of Cake*, p.92).

I think the rate of the aging process and the human life span has been well chosen by God.

Does one want to indefinitely take part in activities on this plane?

There's a Jewish Midrash statement concerning the death of old men. The owner of the fig tree knows when the fruit is ripe for plucking, and he plucks it. When the fig is gathered at the proper time, it is good—good for the fig and good for the tree.

Old people who have lived a long and full life rarely put up much of a fuss. They begin to let go long before dying. So many things do not seem as important as they once did. There is a sense that we are not rooted, fixed in this world, this is not our home, and death gently ushers them out the door.

Virtue it is that puts a house at rest.

How well repaid that tenant is, how blest

who, when the call is heard, is free to take his kindled heart and go.

(Jessica Powers)

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High School Sports

Panapada builds 'foundation' at Trinity Catholic

By **DON HARRISON**

When Donny Panapada was appointed head football coach at his alma mater, Trinity Catholic High School, he had no three-year plan in mind.

He did not foresee a 0-11 record in his debut in 2013, nor did he plan on a promising 7-4 season the following fall. And he certainly didn't imagine his 2015 Crusaders would possess

very long way. I love these kids."

Three of the principal reasons for Trinity Catholic's outstanding 2015 season were students at other schools during the winless fall of 2013: Senior wide receiver Izaiah Sanders, senior quarterback Anthony Lombardi and junior running back Jonmichael Bivona.

Sanders, a 6-foot-3, 208-pounder, moved to Stamford from neighboring Norwalk High, and his arrival gave the Crusaders

excelled as a passer (20 touchdowns, 1,562 yards, only four interceptions) and as a runner on the quarterback option (10.2 yards per carry and five TDs). The coaches took notice and voted Lombardi Second Team All-FCIAC.

"He's 6-foot-3, 200 pounds, a one-double-A kid. The Sacred Heart coach (Mark Nofri) was here looking at him," Panapada says of Lombardi, whose 3.7

All-FCIAC Second Team.

"A tough kid, a dynamic player and one of the best around," says Panapada.

Seniors Johnny Somers and Will Dorvilier, who shared the captaincy with Lombardi, were other important factors in the Crusaders' wonderful season. Somers made his presence felt as a receiver (28 catches, 624 yards) and as a linebacker, earning All-FCIAC honors on defense. Dorvilier, a three-year starter, displayed his durability at both offensive guard and defensive end.

Junior Nick Granata, another double-duty athlete, gained All-FCIAC Second-Team status as an inside linebacker. When Lombardi went down with a

shoulder injury in the second quarter against Ridgefield, Granata stepped in at quarterback and sparked the Crusaders to a 26-21 win and the following week's 37-20 verdict over Fairfield Ludlowe.

"I was never discouraged," Panapada says, referring to his winless debut as head coach. "The kids just played their butts off. They just kept plugging along and we have built a foundation."

The "foundation" will include Trinity's new artificial turf field, complete with lights, which opens next fall. New Canaan, the winner of three straight Class L state titles, will be the opening-game opponent. "Perfect way to open our new field," smiles Panapada. ■



SENIOR WIDE RECEIVER Izaiah Sanders gave the Crusaders the deep threat they had been lacking, recording his longest scoring catch of the year, 85 yards, in the season opener.

the wherewithal to put together another streak—nine straight victories—and advance to the CIAC Class S state semifinal game.

Indeed, Trinity Catholic concluded Panapada's third season with a luminous 9-2 record and he was voted Coach of the Year in the Fairfield County Interscholastic Athletic Conference (FCIAC).

So, was it excellent coaching that led to the progression?

"No, it's not me," pooh-poohs Panapada. "We had a good group of kids. They love the game of football, they love Trinity Catholic. We have great support. You look up in the stands and you see teachers and other faculty members with the students.

"This is what we were striving for. It was a goal of mine when I took over," he says. "We came a

the deep threat they had been lacking. In fact, he recorded his longest scoring catch of the year, 85 yards, in the season opener against perennial FCIAC power Greenwich. Overall, Sanders caught 34 passes for 780 yards and 12 touchdowns, and he ran for another score.

His selection as a wide receiver on the All-FCIAC team was a mere formality, but as Panapada was pleased to point out, "Izaiah made the coaches (Connecticut High School Coaches Association) all-state team, too.

"He is a terrific young man who has athletic ability, but the one thing that stands out is his desire to compete."

Seeking stronger competition on the field, Lombardi transferred from Mahopac (N.Y.) High prior to his junior year. This fall, he

GPA makes him an all-star in the classroom as well.

Bivona, an undersized 5-foot-9 and 165 pounds, entered Trinity Catholic from Stamford High during his sophomore year, and thus was forced to sit out the season opener against Greenwich. The Crusaders lost a nail-biter, 42-38, and one has to wonder if the outcome would have been different had he played.

The junior back was virtually unstoppable the remainder of the year, topping the FCIAC with 1,247 rushing yards and ranking second in the conference with 106 points. The last of his 17 touchdowns was a 75-yard burst in the opening quarter of Trinity Catholic's 31-22 loss to Ansonia in the Class S state semifinal game on December 7. Bivona, like Lombardi, was chosen to the

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Diocesan Youth Choir

Christmas Concert soars with spirit of joy

NORWALK—For the more than 1,100 people who turned out for the first Christmas Concert by the new Diocesan Youth Choir, it was a moment of pure joy that radiated through Norwalk Concert Hall and in the closing remarks of Bishop Frank J. Caggiano.

From the first note of “Arise and Shine” to the final song, “Dark is the Silent Night,” the young choir performed a challenging program of Christmas songs and chants from different ages and cultures.

The 90-minute performance was a remarkable achievement for the 82-member youth choir that was formed just over six months ago.

The audience broke into an exuberant roar at the end of “Siyahama,” a traditional Zulu Christmas hymn. Led by the stunning percussion work of Tom Foote, the choir swayed in their white robes trimmed in blue, bringing the gathering to its feet.

Composer and musician Clay Zambo served as the accompanist for the evening, while oboist Dr. Ralph Kirmser led the final arrangement, a sing-along with



the audience joining in a moving version of Silent Night.

The concert ended with a prolonged standing ovation for the beaming young choir and its director, who rehearsed daily in the weeks leading up to the performance. “There’s only one word to describe what we just experienced,” said a visibly elated Bishop Caggiano, “Wow!”

“This magical night is just the

beginning. You have given new life to the Church,” the bishop said to the choir. “You are the beginning of the renewal that we’ve been praying for. We live in a troubled, uncertain world, but I’m certain the Church is going forward and the young Church is leading the way.”

In April of this year the bishop named Mary Bozzuti-Higgins of Our Lady of Fatima parish in Wilton to be director of the new choir. A former professional opera soprano, she is highly regarded for her work in conducting large music ensembles for schools and civic groups.

She immediately held auditions throughout the diocese and began

rehearsing the new choir.

The choir’s first performance was before more than 8,000 people who filled the Webster Bank Arena on September 19 for the Closing Celebration Mass of Synod 2014.

Special thanks go to concert sponsors and lead donors: Tom and Kathy Arrix, Conrad and Carol Calandra, Sheila Clancy, J. Galt Design Backdrops, Larry and Megan Foley, the O’Herron Family Foundation, John and Jennifer Mitchell.

All proceeds from the evening will benefit the Bishop’s Scholarship Fund and Catholic Charities youth programs in the Diocese of Bridgeport.

(For more info on the Diocesan Youth Choir and the new St. Augustine Guild to support its work, visit the diocesan website: www.bridgeportdiocese.org/c4ysings/home/)



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Bits and Pieces

CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS of Greater Danbury (ages 18-35) meets at the Newman Center (off the campus of Western CT State University) #7 8th Ave., Danbury and other nearby locations. Tues., **Jan 26**, Game Night from 6:30-8:30 pm at the Newman Center. For more info, email catholic.ya.danbury@gmail.com or call 203.417.2695.

VOLUNTEER TUTORS needed for Mercy Learning Center. No experience necessary. Volunteer tutors are paired with one or more adult female students. The time commitment is four hours a week between 8 am and 5 pm, Mon.-Fri. All tutoring is done at Mercy Learning Center. Upcoming training session will take place Fri., **Jan. 29**, from 9 am-3 pm (lunch provided). Mercy Learning Center, 637 Park Ave., Bridgeport. For more info, contact Lynn Gabriel or Sandy Santy: 203.334.6699 or lynn.gabriel@mercylearning-center.org or sandra.santy@mercylearningcenter.org.

WINTER CARNIVAL at St. Mark School, Stratford, Sat., **Jan. 30**, 11 am-3 pm. Indoor event includes moon bounces, games of skill, prizes for everyone, food, popcorn, candy, raffles, face-painting, hair wrapping and more. \$2 admission. For more info, call 203.375.4291 or visit www.stmarkschool.org.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST hosted by Knights of Columbus St. Lawrence Council #14014, will be held Sun., **Jan. 31**, from 8 am-11 am at the St. Lawrence School gym, Shelton. Cost: \$6 per person includes all you can eat pancakes, sausage, bacon, orange juice, and coffee. Proceeds will go towards a local community repair project at St. Augustine's

Cathedral. For more info call St. Lawrence Parish: 203.929.5355.

MASS OF HEALING AND HOPE will be celebrated Mon., **Feb. 1**, at 7:30 pm at Christ the King Parish, Trumbull, with Fr. Larry Carew. For more info, contact the Charismatic Renewal Office: 203.268.8253.

"THE HARVEY GIRLS," a Lauralton Hall student-directed production, will premier Fri., **Feb. 5**, at 7 pm; and Sat. **Feb. 6**, at 2 pm and 7 pm. (Snow date Sun., **Feb. 7**, 7 pm). Tickets available at the door: \$10 general; \$7 students/seniors. For more info, call 203.877.2786 or visit www.lauraltonhall.org.

DAY OF RECOLLECTION on the readings of Lent is being offered at the Shrine of Lourdes in Litchfield, 83 Montfort Rd., Litchfield, on Sat., **Feb. 13**, from 9 am-3 pm. Presenter: Sr. Barbara O'Dea, DW. Spend a day with Mass, presentations and quiet prayer. Lunch is included. Suggested donation: \$25. Reservations needed by Tues., **Feb. 9**. For more info or for reservations, call 860.567.1041 or email lourdesshrinect@gmail.com.

THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN Holy Spirit Fraternity invites everyone to St. Emery Parish, Fairfield, on Sat., **Feb. 13**, at 9:30 am. Fr. Milan Dimic will celebrate Mass, followed by a social and business meeting. "Come and See" if you are being called to a vocation in the Secular Franciscan Order. For more info, call Pat Heile, OFS: 203.255.8801 or pheile5713@aol.com.

LENTEN RETREAT FOR WOMEN: "Living in the Mercy of God" Sun.-Wed., **March 6-9**, at St. Edmund's Retreat Center, Enders Island, Mystic, directed

by Fran Karpiej, OFS. Retreat begins Sun. evening with supper at 5:30 pm and concludes Wed. at 11 am. Reservations needed by Mon., **Feb. 15**. For more info and to register, contact St. Edmund's Retreat Center: 860.536.0565, ext. 110 or www.endersisland.com.

ENCOURAGE apostolate for friends and family of loved ones with same sex attractions or gender ID issues meets the third Saturday of the month (**Feb. 20**) at 10:30 am and is strictly confidential. For more info, contact the Norwalk chapter: EncourageNorwalk@gmail.com.

LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY celebration sponsored by the Knights of Lithuania at St. George Parish, Bridgeport, on Sun., **Feb. 21**, with a noon Mass and program at 1 pm. For more info, call 203.878.0519

GREAT SHEEHAN TRIVIA CONTEST to benefit the Shehan Center will be held, Tues., **Feb. 23**, at the Holiday Inn, 1070

Main St., Bridgeport. Time: 5:30 pm registration & cocktails; 6:15 dinner; 7 pm Trivia Contest. For more info and for tickets, call 203.336.4468 or email Terry: tjo@shehancenter.org.

CASINO NIGHT to benefit the Shehan Center will be held Sat., **Feb. 27**, at The Inn at Longshore, 260 Compo Road S., Westport, from 7-11 pm. For more info and for tickets, call 203.336.4468 or email Terry: tjo@shehancenter.org.

LANCER LEGACY GALA will take place on Sat., **March 12**, at 6 pm at Sacred Heart University, Fairfield. Awards will be presented to Armand Fabbri, James Barquinero and Dianne June Auger, along with inductions into the Athletic Hall of Fame. Tickets: \$125/person. For more info or for tickets, contact Theresa Marzik: tmarzik@notredame.org or 203.372.6521.

ST. CASIMIR FEAST DAY will be honored by the Knights of Lithuania at St. George Parish, Bridgeport, on Sun., **March 13**,

with a noon Mass and luncheon at 1 pm. For more info and for reservations, call 203.878.0519.

CAPP EDUCATORS' COMMUNION BREAKFAST held Sun., **March 13**, at Sacred Heart University's Chapel of the Holy Spirit. 8:30 am chapel tour, 9 am Mass with Bishop Caggiano. 10 am breakfast in the University Commons. Speaker Dr. Thomas Burnford on "Why I Send My Kids to Catholic School." Cost: \$35; \$300/table of 10. All are welcome. For more info, go to www.sacredheart.edu/CAPP2016 or call 203.396.8201.

JOIN THE BUILD of the Pope Francis House, a joint project between the Diocese of Bridgeport and Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County. Groups of 12-15 people are welcome to work any day Tues. thru Sat. from 8:15 am-3 pm. Help get the family in before Easter! For more info, email Donna Spigarolo: donabahr@optonline.net or check out the Habitat website: Habitatcfc.org. ■

WCSU Newman Center

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES

February 10, 2016



~12:00 noon in the WCSU Midtown Student Center Theater

~8:00pm in the WCSU WestSide Classroom Building Room 218



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RETIREMENT ANNUITIES

Catholic Schools

DIOCESE CELEBRATES CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2016

"I believe in the mission of Catholic schools to educate and empower our students, and to form them into knowledgeable, faithful Catholic young men and women," said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano in his State of Education address on January 6. "There is tremendous good news to share about diocesan schools."



Bishop Caggiano: State of Education

Catholic Schools at the 'heart' of the diocese

By BRIAN D. WALLACE

Catholic education is still at the "heart of the diocese," and at the center of forming Catholic identity, said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano in his special "State of Diocesan Education," delivered on January 6 at All Saints School in Norwalk.

Speaking to almost 300 principals, school administrators, pastors and school advisory board members from throughout the diocese, the bishop began his address by sharing the good news about Catholic schools and their impact on society.

At present, the total enrollment of diocesan elementary and middle schools is 6,400, while 2,474 students are enrolled in diocesan high schools. The total student population of 8,874 is almost equally divided between boys and girls, and includes 216 international students from 20 different countries.

Academically, Catholic schools test 2.8 grade levels higher than their current grades in reading, 3.2 grade levels higher in language and 1.3 grade levels higher in math, based on the 2015 Terra Nova Grade Equivalent Reports, national achievement

tests that measure mastery in core subjects.

He said 98 percent of eighth graders are admitted to the high school of their choice and 99 percent of all Catholic high school



seniors are college bound.

Collectively, the schools can boast of 348 different clubs and activities and 193 sports teams; they contribute 130,167 hours of service to parishes, schools and larger communities.

Catholic schools across the nation provide education at one third the cost of public schools, and the bishop noted that New

York State provides far more in pupil assistance to Catholic schools than does the state of Connecticut.



During his hour-long presentation with PowerPoint slides, the bishop painted a picture of the historic achievements of Catholic education but was also candid about the challenge that some schools face to build enrollment.

He said that strategic planning

now underway in each school and on the part of the diocese will enable schools to face major challenges and critical issues, and he thanked the newly formed Education Commission of the diocese for leading the Strategic Plan effort.

In his financial overview, the bishop said that more than 80



percent of revenue both for elementary and high schools comes from tuition. Over 14 percent is provided by the diocese and three percent comes from school fundraising.

One of the biggest successes over the past year has been the creation of the Bishop Scholarship Fund, which doubled aid to elementary school families. It distributed more than \$2.2 million to over 1,500 students, including 300 new students in the elementary schools

The largest source of support for the Bishop's Scholarship Fund is the Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA). Through the generosity of donors, more than \$1.8 million of the \$11 million raised by the appeal went to the scholarship fund. All monies were reserved specifically for scholarships and were not used for school operations.

The bishop said that the total need for financial assistance, as registered in FACTS applications completed by elementary school parents, was \$6.4 million, and the diocese was able to meet 65 percent of that need by providing a total of \$4.2 in financial aid.

He said that the education of every student, including those who pay full tuition, is subsidized. The average elementary school tuition is \$6,435 vs. \$7,263 per pupil cost, while average high school tuition is \$12,162 as opposed to the \$12,724 actual cost to educate each student.

In the question and answer session following the presentation, the bishop noted there are 118,757 active alumni of Catholic schools in Fairfield County and that they had the benefit of attending Catholic schools built over the past 125 years "through the love, sacrifice and faith of those who came before us."

"Sustaining and expanding our schools is a generational challenge. Now it is up to us to re-imagine our schools. It's time to roll up our sleeves, celebrate the good work of Catholic education and bring our schools to the next generation," he said. ■



Saint Joseph School of Brookfield *Mission Statement*



Saint Joseph Catholic School provides a safe, nurturing, and spiritual environment where students achieve academic excellence through diversified learning. With Christ as the cornerstone, students experience an education founded on Gospel values. In collaboration with parents and community, students become life-long learners, develop technological skills, and strive toward a life of faith.

Saint Joseph Schools offers:

- Diversified Curriculum for All Learners
- Academic Support for Students
- Extra-Curricular Activities Including Basketball, Track, Odyssey of the Mind, Dance, and Band
- Certified Educators in Every Grade
- Before and After School Care
- Bring Your Own Device to School, or Use Our New Chrome Books
- Family Social Gatherings to Converse and Build Relationships (Bingo, Pancake Breakfasts, Annual Clambake)
- Shadowing Experiences for All New Students (Grades 1-8)

For additional information, please visit www.sjsbrookfield.org, join us for our Open House on January 31st 12:00 – 2:00, or contact Scott Bannon, principal, at sbannon@diobpt.org

Taking Learning to a Higher Level

— PreK to Grade 8 Programs at Saint Jude School —



Saint Jude School is a place of joyful, integrated learning, where we awaken a child's innate sense of curiosity through creative opportunities for exploration and discovery. In our caring, Catholic culture, and in partnership with families, we go beyond in building a foundation for learning and for life.

- Small classes with individualized attention
- Innovative university and high school partnership programs
- Top 15th percentile for national standardized test scores
- Skilled, fully certified teachers at all grade levels
- 2013 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence
- After school and extended day programs available

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, January 31 from 1:00–3:00 p.m.
203.261.3619 | stjudemonroe.org

Saint Jude School

707 Monroe Turnpike, Monroe, CT 06468
www.stjudemonroe.org

January 2016



Catholic Schools

Bethel

St. Mary School

St. Mary School
24 Dodgingtown Road, Bethel
Pre-K–Grade 8
Open House: Sunday,
January 31, 9:30-11:30 am
203.744.2999
www.stmarybethelct.org
Greg Viceroy, principal:
gvicero@diobpt.org

Faith, Family and Academics are the foundation of the personalized approach to Catholic education at St. Mary School. We are dedicated to fostering Catholic faith and Gospel values. With a student to faculty ratio of 11:1, students receive the individualized instruction that is so important for future success.

"I like the small class sizes, nice teachers, and getting to know my classmates really well," said one student. A parent added, "St. Mary School is an extension of home. Faculty are dedicated to

developing the whole child." As the first school in the diocese to receive the U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Award for Academic Excellence, St. Mary's builds confident learners who are able to tackle the challenges of the 21st Century in a safe, nurturing environment. We offer a wide range of academic programs and enrichment activities: CT State Science Fair, Knights of Columbus Geography Bee, CT Women in History Essay Contest, Junior Achievement Program.

Other activities include: Newspaper and Social Media Club, Speech and Debate, JV and Varsity Basketball, Cheerleading, Track, Drama Club, Recording Club, Craft Club, Sports Club, Keyboard Club and Spanish Club.

Giving back to others is a cornerstone of St. Mary School.

Every grade, from Pre-K onward, participates in community service projects. Students foster their faith relationship with God through prayer services, Mass attendance, and daily religious instruction. We are a vibrant, engaged learning community with high academic standards and a proven record of success.

In December, our Pre-K class became "Chem Buddies" with patients undergoing chemotherapy at Danbury Praxair Cancer Center. They decorated cards and wrote special messages to cheer up those who needed it the most. The fifth-grade class makes and sells popcorn every Tuesday to raise the funds needed to make sandwiches once a month for Dorothy Day House. The fourth



grade has a very special relationship with the elderly residents of Bishop Curtis House. They visit, bring baked goods and entertain with song. Every grade has a similar story.

Visit www.facebook.com/

StMarySchool to get a "snapshot" of life at St. Mary School. To see for yourself what an excellent, faith-filled, academic program can do for your child, call 203.744.2922 to set up a personalized tour.

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- 6. BE A LEADER.** Don't be on the sidelines, participate in sports, arts and clubs.
- 7. USE THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY.** Use iPads as a learning tool in every class.
- 8. HAVE FUN.** Meet friends for life!
- 9. PRACTICE YOUR FAITH.** Participate in prayer and community service.

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- 10. YOU.** An amazing Mustang success story in the making.

Immaculate High School • 73 Southern Boulevard • Danbury, CT 06810
(203) 744-1510 • www.immaculatehs.org • info@immaculatehs.org

Greenwich Catholic School

OPEN HOUSE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd @ 9am

As a co-educational day school serving students **PreK - Grade 8**, we invite you to visit us on our 38 acre campus in the heart of Greenwich and learn about the spiritual, academic, and social foundation we have been providing students for more than 40 years.

471 North Street • Greenwich, CT • 203.869.4000

www.gcscct.org



Catholic Schools

Bridgeport: The Catholic Academy of Bridgeport is comprised of four campuses:

St. Raphael Academy

St. Raphael Academy
324 Frank Street, Bridgeport
Pre-K–Grade 3

Open House: Wednesday,
February 3, 2:30-7 pm
203.333.6818

www.cathedralacademybridgeport.org
Sr. Deborah Lopez, principal:
srlopez@diopbt.org

Welcome to St. Raphael Academy! Located in The Hollow section of Bridgeport, St. Raphael Academy has been providing quality Catholic education to the children of Bridgeport for over 55 years. Once you enter our doors you will experience the warm, friendly spirit that characterizes our school community.

Our parents know that everyone at St. Raphael Academy is dedicated to the formation of our students on all levels of their development. Our families know that our academic standards are

set at a high level and that there is a concerted effort to help each child reach his/her potential. Our standards of conduct and our emphasis on service, on reaching out to the wider Bridgeport community, assist families in their efforts to form children who live out the Gospel in practical ways.

St. Raphael Academy provides an in-house After-School Care program that is much appreciated by our working parents. All teachers provide after-school academic assistance, particularly in math and reading. Every classroom is equipped with SMARTBoard technology and the students have access to tablets appropriate for their age/grade level. There is also the opportunity for qualified students to receive special instruction during the school day in English as a Second Language, reading and writing.

A hallmark of St. Raphael



Academy is its emphasis on service. Our Little Friends of the Sacred Heart club leads the school in planning and carrying out service projects throughout the year which benefit local food pantries, social service centers, nursing homes and

programs for the homeless.

At Christmas, our Little Friends of the Sacred Heart led the school community in an effort to help our neighbors who are residents at Homes For the Brave celebrate this special season. The

entire school community contributed gifts of socks, warm hats and T-shirts for each of the men at the home. Our third-graders also made a Christmas craft to decorate the rooms of the veterans living at the home and carefully wrapped all the gifts so that each man would have something special to open on Christmas Day. The children also offered gifts of prayer for these men who have given so much to make our country safe and free.

The best way to learn about St. Raphael Academy is to come and visit us during the regular school day. We would love to show prospective families around our beautiful school. Once families visit us and see us in action, they will understand all that we have to offer. We can accommodate whatever schedule our families have—we'll be waiting to welcome you!

KOLBE CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Education that engages,
empowers and transforms!



Accepting Qualified
Transfer Students Now
—
SPRING TEST DATE
March 12 – 8:00am



Call to register: 203-335-2554
www.kolbecaths.org
33 Calhoun Place • Bridgeport, CT

Bridgeport

St. Augustine Academy

St. Augustine Academy
63 Pequonnock Street, Bridgeport
Grades 4-8

Open House: Wednesday,
February 3, 2:30-7 pm
203.366.6500

Andrew Malionek, principal:
amalionek@diopbt.org

St. Augustine Academy welcomes each student to become part of a larger family. We pride ourselves on creating strong connections between teacher and student that last well after eighth grade. Serving and caring are central to our faith and community life. When the recent fire in Bridgeport left many families homeless, our students organized a clothing/food drive for infants.

The job of our teachers is to prepare each student for high

school. To that end, our academics are rigorous, our spiritual life is strong and contagious, and the culture of our school is warm and welcoming. Students can take advantage of our basketball program for both boys and girls, and our Photography Club, Bell Choir, Art Club, Writer's Workshop, Craft Club, Lego

Club, Student Council, Peer Mentoring Club, and much, much more.

Contact us and become part of our St. Augustine family. Our community is strong where our students "Enter to Learn and Leave to Serve." Be one with us. Be a St. Augustine St.!



January 2016



Catholic Schools

Bridgeport

St. Andrew Academy

St. Andrew Academy
395 Anton Street, Bridgeport
Pre-K–Grade 8
Open House: Saturday,
January 30, 11 am–12:30 pm
203.373.1552
www.standrewacademy.org
Maria O’Neill, Principal:
moneill@diobpt.org

St. Andrew Academy is located on a beautiful campus in the North End of Bridgeport. We serve students from all over the city and beyond in a family atmosphere with an emphasis on Gospel values, high expectations and service to our community and beyond.

Current families love the family atmosphere of our school where the children are nurtured by all adults, not just his or her classroom teacher. There are many family events sponsored by



our PTO and parents enjoy the opportunity to be a part of the school community. The parents

feel the teachers “do whatever it takes” for their children to succeed, as demonstrated by the

countless hours the teachers give to their classrooms.

St. Andrew Academy has an extensive After-School program.

It is available every day (even most early dismissal days) until 5:30 pm. Older students are provided with homework help and guidance and younger students enjoy playing with each other. St. Andrew Academy also offers many clubs and activities after school for children of all grades.

Before Christmas, second and third-grade students decided to collect new or gently-used toys for children in our city. Student Council sponsored a Dress Down Day to collect donations. St. Andrew Academy was thrilled to present Sister Theresa Tremblay with bags of toys and a check to help buy groceries for the families she serves in our city.

Visitors remark on the warm feeling they get when they enter St. Andrew Academy. Please call to make an appointment or stop by to see the great work going on and feel it for yourself!

Bridgeport

St. Ann Academy

St. Ann Academy
521 Brewster Street, Bridgeport
Pre-K–Grade 8
Open House: Sunday,
January 31, 12 noon–2 pm
203.334.5856
www.stannacademy.org
Patricia Griffin, principal:
pgriffin@stannblackrock.org

St. Ann Academy is a place where students love to learn, develop Christian values and learn to serve. Our teachers are committed to providing our students with a safe, nurturing environment with a rigorous and age-appropriate curriculum.

We have an Extended Day program to accommodate working families, staffed by St. Ann teachers. Basketball, tennis, Art Club, Book Club, STEM Club, and Book Buddies are offered. Leadership opportunities such as Student Council, Youth Leadership Academy, National Junior Honor Society are opportunities for our middle school

students. Our service club “Make a Difference” is open to all students. Our Make a Difference Club members sponsored a hat and mitten drive with over 45 sets being donated to the Bridgeport

prayer service. We also collected hundreds of non-perishable items for the victims of the Bridgeport condo fires. As part of this service, we also sent a large donation to the Red Cross.



Rescue Mission.

Each year our student actors present a musical in the spring. We have a Fine Arts Festival to showcase our artistic, musical and oratorical talents.

On Three Kings Day our school met for a School Blessing

St. Ann Academy is a diverse learning community where our differences are celebrated and valued. Our students participate in a school-wide cultural celebration where dance, food and fashion are showcased.



TRINITY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

*Educating the Mind, Body & Spirit
of Every Student*

Open House

February 2, 2016 - 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
(Snow date: Thursday, February 4th)

Entrance Exam

February 5, 2016 - 8:00 a.m.



Call our Admissions Office for more information.
926 Newfield Avenue ~ Stamford CT ~ 203.322.3401 x302



Catholic Schools

Brookfield

St. Joseph School

St. Joseph School
5 Obtuse Hill Road, Brookfield
Pre-K–Grade 8
Open House: Sunday,
January 31, 12 noon-2 pm
203.775.2774
www.sjsbrookfield.org
Scott Bannon, principal:
sbannon@diobpt.org

St. Joseph Catholic School provides a safe, nurturing, and spiritual environment where students achieve academic excellence through diversified learning. With Christ as the cornerstone, students experience an education founded on Gospel values. In collaboration with parents and community, students become life-long learners, develop technological skills, and strive toward a life of faith.

Our families often describe our school as a community of faith, based on kindness and respect for

others, a safe place for students to learn and socialize. Parents often compliment the students on their kindness and acceptance of others. Our school welcomes new faces, and embraces them as part of our family.

Our school offers a variety of extra-curricular activities ranging from athletics to academics. Our most popular sports are basketball and track. We offer four basketball teams (JV and Varsity) for boys and girls. Our track program ranges from Kindergarten through Grade 8 with over 80 runners. Five Odyssey of the Mind teams are coached by current parents.

Seasonal Yoga classes are offered by a certified instructor. Cheerleading is offered to students in grades 3-5. Our Pre-K students have an opportunity to take dance/ballet classes, and we offer band to students in grades

1-8. Sessions are offered during the school day and after school. SJS is happy that we can provide before and after care services for families who need extended day care.

Our community is described as a supportive, giving group. Recently, our 6th, 7th, and 8th grade chorus visited the Brookfield Senior Center and performed a Christmas Concert during lunch hour. The room was filled with joy and smiles.

Prospective families are encouraged to tour SJS. We offer individualized tours, meetings with administration,



and shadowing experiences for students. Tuition assistance is

available at the diocesan and school levels.

Danbury

St. Gregory the Great School

St. Gregory the Great School
85 Great Plain Road, Danbury
Pre-K–Grade 8
Open House: Sunday,
January 31, 1-3 pm
203.748.1217
www.saintgregoryschool.org;
info@sgtgs.org
Suzanne Curra, principal:
scurra@diobpt.org

At St. Gregory the Great School, located in a quiet, country setting, students live their faith and excel academically. We offer an enriching student life which includes Student Council, a student newspaper, music/theater programs, athletics, and more. Our extraordinary staff is dedicated and committed to Catholic education. We offer a welcoming, safe environment with a diverse student population.

There is a family-like atmosphere at St. Greg's where every child is a priority. The students who graduate from St. Gregory the Great School are well prepared for high school.

We have Spanish Pre-K–8, Student Council, Band, Music, Art, Drama Club, Drama Productions in Grades 7 & 8,



Basketball, Cheerleading, Track, Paw Print (Student Newspaper), Science Fair, State-of-the-Art Science Lab, Johns Hopkins Search for Talented Youth, Geography Bee, Spelling Bee, community sponsored opportunities in art and writing, field trips to Boston, NYC, Mystic and more. We also have a before and after school care program.

Throughout our school year, we have student-led prayer services aligned with the liturgical year and special liturgies including opening school Mass and Holy Days. We participate

in community and parish outreach such as food and clothing drives, monetary donations from dress down days, and prayer cards and well wishes to patients in area nursing homes. Students take a pledge of non-violence and conflict resolution each year.

We invite you to tour our school and talk with our staff and students. If you can't come to our Open House, call to schedule a tour at 203.748.1217. We look forward to meeting you!

All Saints Catholic School

Pre-K through 8th Grade



"Challenging Minds, Inspiring Hearts"

**Come and See
Faith in Action!**

2016 Open Houses

Sunday Jan. 31: 12-2pm
Monday Feb. 1: 8:30-10am



139 West Rocks Rd. Norwalk
203-847-3881
www.allsaintsnorwalk.com

January 2016



Catholic Schools

Danbury

St. Peter School

St. Peter School
98 Main Street, Danbury
Pre-K–Grade 5
Open House: Wednesday,
February 3, 9 am-1:30 pm
203.748.2895
www.stpeterschooldanbury.org
Suzanna Zello, principal:
szello@diobpt.org

St. Peter School is located in the heart of downtown Danbury, serving not only Danbury but the surrounding towns. We are a faith-filled community that strives to not only teach the Gospel, but to live the Gospel each and every day. We have offered over 100 years of Catholic Education in the City of Danbury. We continue today as a true example of furthering the Catholic Faith

through academic excellence and spiritual development, creating life-long learners who are responsible disciples of Jesus Christ.

The school has a welcoming and family atmosphere. The teachers are caring and dedicated professionals. Our children like going to school!

We are proud of our diverse multicultural community. We celebrate our ethnic diversity in different ways, including Christmas Around the World Projects by the 6th through 8th graders, our annual Christmas Show, our Multicultural Liturgy during Catholic Schools Week and an annual multicultural pot luck supper in the spring. As a school we celebrate Thanksgiving with an annual Thanksgiving Feast sponsored by our Home School

Association.

For personal enrichment we have a Crocheting Club and a Reading Club, and teachers offer both before and after school help. We have won several art and poster contests over the years and participate in the Knights of Columbus Geo Bee. In addition to basketball and cheerleading teams we also have a track program.

During Catholic Schools Week we celebrate our ethnic diversity by working together for our annual Multicultural Mass. Students dress in their ethnic clothing and the readings, the prayer of the faithful and the hymns are in several languages.

Our Student Council organizes community service projects for the school community. We are proud



of the program we have developed with the Elmwood Senior Citizen Center, begun last year, and we have visited the center for art projects, reading, singing and dancing. We strive to live our motto: "Enter to Learn About Jesus, Leave to Serve Jesus."

Students who qualify may receive ELL and/or Title I services. Financial aid is available for qualifying families from the Bishop's Scholarship Fund. We accept Care4Kids for our

PK and Before/After School Care Programs. Busing within Danbury is available for students in grades K-8. We have a Federal Breakfast and Lunch Program offering free or reduced cost for families who qualify.

Check us out on Facebook to see pictures of classroom and school activities. Come to Open House, stop in on Take a Look Tuesday (any Tuesday from 9-11:30 am) or call for an appointment 203.748.2895. ■

Danbury

St. Joseph School

St. Joseph School
370 Main Street, Danbury
Pre-K–Grade 8
Open House: Sunday,
January 31, 10 am-12 noon
203.748.6615
sjsdanbury.org
Lisa Lanni, principal:
llanni@diobpt.org

We offer a variety of programs to meet the spiritual, academic, physical and social needs of our students. We currently have 270 students who benefit from our programming. They would describe our school as a safe environment where students are loved and looked after. We create a fami-

iPads, Chromebooks, desk tops, lap tops, digital projectors, Apple TV's and SMART boards.

In addition, there are numerous opportunities for students to participate in extra-curricular activities. Our fine arts programs are exceptional. Choir, Bell Choir, Band, Drama Club, Select Chorus are but a few program offerings.

Putting faith into action, CARES Club provides opportunities for Kindergarten through Grade 5 to participate in helping others in our neighborhood and our world. All students participate in both school-wide and classroom-based community service.

During Advent we held weekly Advent Wreath lightings, where students dressed up as the appropriate candles for that week to exemplify how we are the light of Christ. These prayer services brought Advent to life and had a profound effect on all of us. During the fourth week lighting, parishioners, parents and teachers were specifically invited to share their love of Jesus by their life's example. ■



St. Joseph School is a wonderful place to learn and be part of a community of faith. St. Joseph School prides itself on educating students in Pre-K–Grade 8 in all the major academic subjects rooted in Catholic Church teaching.

ly atmosphere where everyone knows each other and takes care of each other. We have a hot lunch program as well as extended care for those who wish to use it.

We offer Spanish from Pre-K–Grade 8. Our technology program is state of the art with

ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Fairfield, Connecticut

Enrollment Open House
Sunday, February 7, 2016
10 AM to Noon





Full Day PreK 3 - Grade 8
Enrolling now for September 2016!

Register Today:
Karen Guastelle
203-334-6271
kguastelle@oloaffld.org

Experience the Joy of a Catholic Education

Assumption Catholic School
605 Stratfield Road
Fairfield, CT 06825
www.assumptionfairfield.org

Phone: 203-334-6271
E-mail: kguastelle@oloaffld.org





Catholic Schools

Fairfield

Assumption Catholic School

Assumption Catholic School
605 Stratfield Road, Fairfield
Pre-K–Grade 8

Open House: Sunday,
February 7, 10 am–12 noon
203.334.6271

www.assumptionfairfield.org
Gerrie Dessio, principal:
gdessio@diobpt.org

with the mathematics department at Sacred Heart University to provide free math tutoring three days a week in our after school program. After school offerings include an Art Club hosted by a professional artist as well as a robust violin program with lessons taught by a professional

Rosary. Bishop Caggiano was present to celebrate with us, and he was in awe of the beauty of the service and how it made the prayers so real and meaningful

for the students.

At Assumption we strive to make our school a joyful place to learn, worship, and develop. Jesus was sent to us to bring the

light, love, and joy of God to the people. We try to live that same light, love, and joy every day in the halls and classrooms of Assumption Catholic School. ■



Assumption Catholic School offers a high quality, faith-filled education to a diverse student body in full day programs from Pre-K through eighth grade. Centrally located in the Stratfield section of Fairfield, Assumption is situated perfectly for students from Easton, Trumbull, Bridgeport, Monroe, Stratford, and other surrounding communities.

Assumption has partnered

with the mathematics department at Sacred Heart University to provide free math tutoring three days a week in our after school program. After school offerings include an Art Club hosted by a professional artist as well as a robust violin program with lessons taught by a professional

musician. Violins are provided to the students by the school. Assumption students express their faith through both prayer and service. In October the students participated in a Living Rosary prayer service, in which 60 students made up the beads of a Rosary. The entire school community gathered and prayed together in the parish hall, encircled by the students of the

Fairfield

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School

1719 Post Road, Fairfield
Pre-K–Grade 8

Open House: Sunday,
January 31, 10 am–12 noon
203.255.0556

www.stasonline.net
Patricia Brady, principal:
pbrady@diobpt.org

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School has been successfully educating students academically, spiritually, and morally for over 90 years. We educate students in Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade and lead them to live by our school's mission: St. Thomas Aquinas School community strives for academic excellence in a faith-filled Catholic environment that encourages children to reach their full potential and to become lifelong learners. By word and example, we teach our students to model Christ's message of Love.

We are truly a community that you are part of even long after your children have graduated. There is a sense of family; a place that you know you can always come home to and know that you are remembered and warmly welcomed back. St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School offers its students an array of academic and extracurricular enrichment programs. Academically, we offer our students two prominent world languages, Spanish and French, starting in Kindergarten. We offer a State-of-the-Art Computer and Science Lab, a Media Center, Art Room, Music

Room, Gymnasium, Cafeteria, and a playground with a half basketball court, playground equipment and a newly-installed Field and Track. Our faculty are devoted, certified teachers who incorporate technology into

and implementing a coordinated, school-wide service program. Our Primary School (PK–grade 2) focuses its service projects on service to the elderly. Our Intermediate School (grades 3-5) focuses



each lesson. All classrooms are equipped with Smart Boards. We also offer a variety of enrichment programs such as Altar Service, Band, Basketball, Chess Club, Chinese, Cross Country, Mock Trial, National Junior Honor Society, School Play, Scouting, Student Council, and Swimming Program at the YMCA and The Sportsplex of Fairfield. In addition to the regular offerings, there are seasonal opportunities of new and exciting programs. Students also suggest new programs that they believe may be of interest to the school community.

Students of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School reach out to others in service, becoming the heart and hands of Jesus. The goal for our Service Program is to assist students in understanding that service is a way of life, and to encourage them to demonstrate Gospel values by planning

its service projects on service to children who are ill and those who care for them. Our Middle School (grades 6-8) focuses its service projects on service to the poor through social justice. In addition, our students participate in a 7th grade-Pre-Kindergarten and 8th grade-Kindergarten "Buddy" program, in which our older students participate in holiday crafts, field trips and accompany their young buddies to First Friday Mass. Starting in Kindergarten our students are taught the importance of giving back and to live well the quote from St. Thomas Aquinas: "Give, expecting nothing thereof."

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School is a 2010 U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School Award winner. ■



Saint Mary School
RIDGEFIELD

Please join us for our

WINTER OPEN HOUSES



K-Grade 8 Open House
Thursday, February 11, 2016
9:00-10:00 am

Preschool Open House
Friday, February 12, 2016
9:30-10:30 am

RSVP at www.smsridgefield.org

Can't make it? We would love to arrange a tour;
just call (203) 438-7288

Saint Mary School admits students of any race, color, creed or ethnic origin.

Preschool - Grade 8 • National Blue Ribbon Winner

January 2016



Catholic Schools

Greenwich

Greenwich Catholic School

Greenwich Catholic School
471 North Street, Greenwich

Pre-K–Grade 8

Open House: Tuesday,

February 2, 9 am

203.869.4000

www.gcscat.org

info@gcscat.org

Patrice Kopas, principal:

pkopas@diobpt.org

Community, faith, and academic excellence are the hallmarks of Greenwich Catholic School. The students are challenged to meet the highest academic standards, built on the foundation of Christ's love, so that they become loving and productive members of society. As a co-educational day school serving students in Pre-K–Grade 8, our beautiful 38 acre campus affords the school an array of academic, athletic and extracurricular activi-

ties not typically found in Catholic elementary schools.

Our families come to us from throughout Fairfield and Westchester counties and represent a diverse and thriving community committed to providing their children with the best academic, social and spiritual foundation. Year after year, our graduates go on to attend the area's most prominent college preparatory high schools, including Regis High School, School of the Holy Child, Trinity Catholic High School, Fordham Prep, King, and Convent of the Sacred Heart.

Current school families would describe GCS as a welcoming community, comprised of teachers, staff, clergy, and parents, who are committed to the Catholic faith, academic excellence, and nurturing the individual abilities



and interests of all our students. Greenwich Catholic School employs a library/media specialist, computer teacher, nurse, learning specialist, art teacher, music teacher, speech and language therapist, and STEM coordinator.

Greenwich Catholic School offers an extensive array of athlet-

ics, arts, and academic programs to enhance student life. The athletics include co-ed teams in Cross Country, Swimming and Tennis; boys and girls teams in Basketball, Lacrosse, and Soccer; boys Baseball, girls Field Hockey, and girls Softball. Extracurricular Programs include Orchestra, Band,

Drama and Student Council

In addition, we offer a wide range of after school activities for students in grades Pre-K through grade 8, which include but are not limited to karate, drawing, yoga, robotics and cooking. Greenwich Catholic School provides the atmosphere for learning and living the faith in its total environment. Daily prayer and liturgical celebrations are scheduled throughout the year. Each morning the entire school is led in prayer by eighth-grade students and prayers are said at the end of the day. Liturgies are held each First Friday of the month, with special Prayer Services during Advent and Lent. The priests of St. Michael's Parish are actively involved in the school, and are on hand to offer Confession at key times during the year. ■



11:1

student faculty ratio

44

undergraduate majors

41

graduate majors

98%

secured full-time employment, admission to graduate school or to service programs

WE ASK THE HARD QUESTIONS, LISTEN CLOSELY, AND CARE ENOUGH ABOUT THE WORLD TO STUDY IT, WORK IN IT, MAKE IT BETTER.



Fairfield University

In 2014, *The Princeton Review*, again, named the Dolan School as one of the most outstanding business schools in the country.



Catholic Schools

Monroe

St. Jude School

St. Jude School
707 Monroe Turnpike, Monroe
Pre-K–Grade 8
Open House: Sunday,
January 31, 1-3 pm
203.261.3619
www.stjudemonroe.org
Dr. Patrick Higgins, principal:
phiggins@diobpt.org

St. Jude School is known for academic excellence—in 2013 our school was the recipient of the U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Award. We also have a Science, Technology, Engineering,

and Mathematics (STEM) program with the opportunity for our students to travel off campus for STEM learning opportunities at Fairfield, Sacred Heart, and Western Connecticut State universities, as well as academic and service opportunities with St. Joseph High School in nearby Trumbull. All of our full-time faculty are certified by the Connecticut State Department of Education, and are led by a principal with a doctorate in instructional leadership and education psychology. Working as a team, our teachers nurture

and encourage students to become critical thinkers and independent learners for academic success at St. Jude School and beyond.

We are focused on academic excellence and continually working to ensure our students grow academically, socially, and spiritually in a safe environment grounded on the tenets of our Catholic Faith and proud history of Catholic Education.

St. Jude School has a much sought-after Pre-K 3 and 4 program that parents are pleased to recommend to prospective



families. In an encouraging, faith-filled environment, all of our students take an active part in planning for their class' participation in our First Friday Masses, as well as organizing and manag-

ing food drives for our very own on-campus food pantry.

If you would like to schedule a tour, call 203.261.3619 and ask to speak to Principal Dr. Patrick Higgins. ■

New Canaan

St. Aloysius School

St. Aloysius School
33 South Avenue, New Canaan
Kindergarten–Grade 8
Open House: Sunday, January 31,
11:30 am-1 pm
203.966.0786
www.sasnct.org
Bardhyl Gjuka, principal:
bgjuka@diobpt.org

Our school enjoys three attributes that distinguish it from other area schools: our rigorous academics, a Catholic values-based education and energetically involved parents who support the school. We are a Blue Ribbon school and, each year, approximately one-third of the eligible students quali-

fy for the Johns Hopkins Talented and Gifted Program. Our Catholic education begins in kindergarten where the students learn their core Gospel values. Our school is an extended family where an active Mentoring Association welcomes new families into the school.

We are a faith-based family



community; parents are actively and enthusiastically involved in the school. We are blessed with teachers who carry the torch of their own faith and on a daily basis spend time bringing out the best in their students and highlighting their innate God-given gifts.

A Catholic education does make a difference!

Through the Johns Hopkins Programs, students have the opportunity to expand their learning by participating in various leadership, robotics and STEM programs. K-8 students participate in STEM activities. After school, offered activities include: art, coding, math club, homework club, band, floor hockey, lacrosse, flag football, fall and spring cross country, basketball and volleyball just to name a few. In addition to the core studies, St. Aloysius offers art class, computer class, Spanish, gym, music and performing arts.

St. Aloysius has an Advent

Liturgy and Christmas Pageant and Spring Show in which all students participate. We have a buddy program for grades K-2 paired with grades 6-8.

The students of St. A participate in various service projects. Students decorated and delivered pumpkins to seniors in a local apartment community. The Upper School participated in a service project supporting the Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County. This service performs a Corporal Work of Mercy. The entire school brought in donations and participated in packing gift-filled shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. To respond when Pope Francis declared an extraordinary jubilee Year of Mercy to emphasize the granting of mercy as an action of social justice and charitable work, a tree of mercy was created at St. A and a leaf will be added to the tree with individual acts of mercy. ■



CELEBRATING OUR K-8
DIOCESAN SCHOOLS
**National Catholic
Schools Week**

January 31 - February 6, 2016

The Faculty and Staff at
St. Joseph High School applaud our
colleagues in Catholic schools.
Thank you all for your faith,
trust, compassion, and
understanding.



"And how much good has been done by Catholic schools and universities around the world." -Pope Francis

ST JOSEPH
HIGH SCHOOL

admissions@sjcadets.org 2320 Huntington Turnpike
www.sjcadets.org Trumbull, CT 06611
www.bridgeportdiocese.com 203-378-9378 (ext. 455)

January 2016



Catholic Schools

Newtown

St. Rose of Lima School

St. Rose of Lima School
40 Church Hill Road, Newtown
Pre-K–Grade 8
Open House: Sunday,
January 31, 12 noon-2 pm
203.426.5102
www.stroseschool.com
admissions@stroseschool.com
Sister Colleen Therese Smith, ASCJ,
principal: srsmith@diobpt.org

Welcome to St. Rose of Lima School, a place where every child feels loved and accepted. We are a Catholic community focused on respect, integrity, academic excellence and service. We are honored and proud to partner with our parents in our shared mission to create a sense of family and to prepare our children to become responsible leaders. St. Rose of Lima School is a vibrant Christ-centered environment where love for God and a shared faith is our hallmark. It is truly a place where faith shapes the spirit, family shapes the heart and knowledge shapes the mind!

“St. Rose is a community! The school is becoming my family. The academic foundation is strong and the values they are learning are priceless!” said a current St. Rose parent.

An exceptional academic curriculum is core to our school. The St. Rose curriculum is flexible to meet the varying learning abilities

of students, and affords every student the opportunity to achieve his or her fullest potential. Our integration of technology with a one-to-one iPad program for students in grades 4-8 offers a unique learning experience and crucial preparation for high school studies. Our Mandarin and Spanish programs from K-8 enrich our students, giving them a global exposure. Our STEM programs and outdoor learning center are highlights of our science curriculum.

Every class at St. Rose of Lima has adopted a service program for the year. For Christmas one class made scarves for our military Veterans, while another class meets monthly to make hundreds of turkey sandwiches for a soup kitchen in the Waterbury area. Students made placemats for the senior center, and students shared from their own money to buy gift cards to supermarkets to share with some families in a poor inner city school.

We also have an annual tradition of the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart when our students and families consecrate themselves to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and promise to be the “hands and heart of Christ” for others.

St. Rose of Lima also offers enrichment clubs such as Mock Trial, Model UN, National



Junior Honor Society, Student Ambassadors, and award winning Math club, Chess Club, Student Council, and athletics in basketball, track and field and cheer and pep squad. Our field trips extend classroom to exciting destinations such as Washington, D.C., New York City, Boston and many others.

We offer before and after school care to accommodate working parents. We are also a nut-free environment.



CHRIST CENTERED CLASSICAL EDUCATION

REGINA PACIS ACADEMY
K - 8th Grade

2016 OPEN HOUSE

Monday, February 1 - Thursday, February 4
9:00 - 11:30 AM

Please call for an appointment

8 Leonard Street, Norwalk, CT 06850 (203) 642-4501
(behind St. Mary Church) www.reginapacisacademy.com

Empowering Women for Life

CELEBRATING
Catholic Schools Week
January 31 to February 6 2016

Lauralton Hall
Connecticut's First Catholic College-Prep School for Girls

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SISTERS OF MERCY

LauraltonHall.org 203.877.2786 Milford





Catholic Schools

Norwalk

All Saints Catholic School

All Saints Catholic School
139 West Rocks Road, Norwalk
Pre-K–Grade 8

Open House: Sunday, January 31,
12 noon–2 pm; Monday–Tuesday,
February 1–2, 8:30–10 am
203.847.3881
www.allsaintsnorwalk.com
admissions@ascs.net
Linda Dunn, principal:
ldunn@diobpt.org

One of the largest Roman Catholic elementary schools in New England, All Saints has maintained a small school sense of community and family for 25 years. Faith is at the core of all we say and all we do. Families choose All Saints because the values and tradition of a Catholic education are more important than ever in today's world.

We are a community of learners. We think, engage, collaborate and communicate. We support our students with the tools they need ranging from programs for high achieving students to academic support and tutoring. As part of our commitment to the most updated technology, we have iPads and Chromebooks for use by the students in their classrooms.

We are a community united. We are committed to improving ourselves, our school, our world through a program of community service and involvement. Involved parents are a key part of the mix at All Saints. Always generous and involved at every level, our parental involvement includes serving on our Home School Association, serving on the Science Park Committee, acting as

Scout leaders and much more.

We are a community of achievers. In addition to our academic successes, All Saints students excel above and beyond in extra-curricular activities. Many of our graduates have gone on to attend Ivy League colleges, and graduate among the top in their classes.

We have a five-acre campus, including full gymnasium, auditorium, and outdoor track. Tuition assistance is available.

"All Saints is not just a school but a family. Children are taught by caring and compassionate faculty in a safe, friendly environment. From here students learn to be empathetic, kind and intellectually curious as they go out into the world." — Gloria Garvey, parent

"We love All Saints. All three of our children began their All



Saints experience with the pre-school program at 3 years old. From our first day there, we have been welcomed into the ASCS family. The teachers truly care for each of their students and are passionate about their role as educators. The best part of the All Saints experience for us, however, is the friendships that we have developed with other families."

– Melissa Maroney, parent.
All Saints offers STEM, advanced level Language Arts and Math for Middle School, Spanish in grades Pre-K through 8, our Science and Energy Park, integrated technology, Peak Performance All Sports Program, JV and Varsity boys and girls basketball program, Student Council,
➤ *CONTINUED ON PAGE 39*



CATHOLIC EDUCATION CAN BE AFFORDABLE! Apply now for tuition assistance!

In 2015, the Bishop's Scholarship Fund awarded over 2 million dollars to 1500 students. Apply for your PK–8 student today.

To apply: Complete the Grant & Aid application at
www.FACTSmgmt.com/aid



IMPORTANT DATES:
March 15, 2016: Application deadline
April 1, 2016: Award notifications begin

For more information:
Visit: bridgeportdiocese.com/bsf
Email: bsf@diobpt.org
Ask: Your local Catholic School Principal



ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS:

All Saints Catholic School, Norwalk, CT
Assumption Catholic School, Fairfield, CT
Catholic Academy of Bridgeport -
St. Andrew Campus, Bridgeport, CT
Catholic Academy of Bridgeport -
St. Ann Campus, Bridgeport, CT
Catholic Academy of Bridgeport -
St. Augustine Campus, Bridgeport, CT
Catholic Academy of Bridgeport -
St. Raphael Campus, Bridgeport, CT
Greenwich Catholic School, Greenwich, CT
Holy Spirit School, Stamford, CT
Our Lady of Fatima School, Wilton, CT
Our Lady Star of the Sea School, Stamford, CT
St. Aloysius School, New Canaan, CT
St. Catherine of Siena School, Trumbull, CT
St. Cecilia School, Stamford, CT
St. Gregory the Great School, Danbury, CT
St. James School, Stratford, CT
St. Joseph School, Brookfield, CT
St. Joseph School, Danbury, CT
St. Joseph School, Shelton, CT
St. Jude School, Monroe, CT
St. Lawrence School, Shelton, CT
St. Mark School, Stratford, CT
St. Mary School, Bethel, CT
St. Mary School, Ridgefield, CT
St. Peter School, Danbury, CT
St. Rose of Lima School, Newtown, CT
St. Theresa School, Trumbull, CT
St. Thomas Aquinas School, Fairfield, CT
Trinity Catholic Middle School, Stamford, CT



Visit us!

All of our Catholic schools are available for prospective family visits year round simply by contacting the school directly. Catholic Schools Week Open House dates are listed below.

BETHEL

St. Mary School
 Open House (Pre-K): Wednesday, January 20, 2016 — 9:00-11:30 am
 Open House (Pre-K-Grade 8): Sunday, January 31, 2016 — 9:30-11:30 am
 Info: www.stmarybethelct.org

BRIDGEPORT — Catholic Academy of Bridgeport
 St. Raphael Academy (Pre-K thru Grade 3)
 Open House: Wednesday, February 3, 2016
 Info: www.cathedralacademybridgeport.org

St. Augustine Academy (Grades 4 thru 8)
 Open House: Wednesday, February 3, 2016
 Info: www.cathedralacademybridgeport.org

St. Andrew Academy
 Open House: Saturday, January 30, 2016
 Please call for an appointment: 203.373.1552
 Info: www.standrewacademybridgeport.org

St. Ann Academy
 Open House: Sunday, January 31, 2016
 Info: www.stannacademy.org

BROOKFIELD
 St. Joseph School
 Open House: Sunday, January 31, 2016 — 12:00-2:00 pm
 Info: www.sjsbrookfield.org

DANBURY
 St. Gregory the Great School
 Open House: Sunday, January 31, 2016 — 1:00 pm
 Info: www.saintgregoryschool.org

St. Joseph School
 Open House: Saturday, January 31, 2016 — 10:00 am-12:00 pm
 Info: www.sjsdanbury.org

St. Peter School
 Open House: Wednesday, February 3, 2016 — 9:00 am-1:30 pm
 Take-A-Look Tuesday: 9:00 am-12:00 pm (Weekly)
 Info: www.stpeterschooldanbury.org

FAIRFIELD
 Assumption Catholic School
 Open House: Sunday, February 7, 2016 — 10:00 am-12:00 pm
 Info: www.assumptionschool-fairfield.org

St. Catherine Academy,
 The Special Education School of the Diocese
 Info: www.stcatherineacademy.org

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School
 Open House: Sunday, January 31, 2016 — 10:00 am-12:00 pm
 Info: www.stasonline.net

GREENWICH
 Greenwich Catholic School
 Open House: February 2, 2016 — 9:00 am
 Info: www.gcscct.org

MONROE
 St. Jude School
 Information Session: Thursday, January 21, 2016 — 7:00 pm (St. Jude Church Parish Hall)
 Open House: Sunday, January 31, 2016 — 11:00-1:00 pm (St. Jude School)
 Info: www.stjudemonroe.org

NEW CANAAN
 St. Aloysius School
 Open House: Sunday, January 31, 2016 — 11:30 am-1:00 pm
 Info: www.staloyssiusschool.net

NEWTOWN
 St. Rose of Lima School
 Open House: Sunday, January 31, 2016 — 11:30 am-2:00 pm
 Info: www.stroseschool.com

NORWALK
 All Saints Catholic School
 Open House: Sunday, January 31, 2016 — 12:30-2:00 pm
 February 1, 2016 — 8:30-10:00 am
 February 2, 2016 — 8:30-10:00 am
 Info: www.allsaintsnorwalk.com

RIDGEFIELD
 St. Mary School
 Open House (K-8): Thursday, February 11, 2016 — 9:00 am-10:00 am
 Open House (Pre-K): Friday, February 23, 2016 — 9:30 am-10:30 am
 Info: www.smsridgefield.org

SHELTON
 St. Joseph School
 Open House: Sunday, January 31, 2016 — 10:00 am-2:00 pm
 Info: www.stjoesschoolshelton.org

St. Lawrence School
 Open House: Sunday, January 31, 2016 — 10:00 am-1:00 pm
 Info: www.stlawrenceshelton.com

STAMFORD
 Holy Spirit School
 Open House: Sunday, January 31, 2016 — 10:00 am-1:00 pm
 Info: www.holyspiritschool.info

Our Lady Star of the Sea School
 Open House: Sunday, January 31, 2016 — 10:00 am-12:00 pm
 Open House: Wednesday, February 3, 2016 — 9:00 am-11:00 am
 Info: www.olssschoool.org

St. Cecilia School
 Open House: Sunday, January 31, 2016 — 10:30 am-1:00 pm
 Info: www.stceciastamford.com/index.php/admissions/admissions-contact-us/

Trinity Catholic Middle School
 Open House: Saturday, February 6, 2016 — 9:00 am-11:00 am
 Info: www.trinitycatholicms.com/main

STRATFORD
 St. James School
 Open House: Sunday, January 31, 2016 — 11:00 am-2:00 pm
 Info: www.stjamesstratford.org

St. Mark School
 Open House: Sunday, January 31, 2016 — 9:00 am-12:00 pm
 Info: www.stmarkschool.org

TRUMBULL
 St. Catherine of Siena School
 Open House: Tuesday, February 2, 2016 — 8:30-10:30 am
 Info: www.stcatherinesienatrumbull.org

St. Theresa School
 Open House: Sunday, January 31, 2016 — 10:30 am-12:00 pm
 Monday, February 1, 2016 — 9:00 am-11:00 am
 Info: www.sainttheresaschool.net/admissions.html

WILTON
 Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School
 Open House: Sunday, January 24, 2016 — 10:00 am-2:00 pm
 Info: www.olfcatholic.org



Catholic Schools

Ridgefield

St. Mary School

St. Mary School
183 High Ridge Avenue, Ridgefield
Pre-K–Grade 8
K-8 Open House: Thursday,
February 11, 9-10 am
Preschool Open House: Friday,
February 12, 9:30-10:30 am
203.438.7288
www.smsridgefield.org
Anna O'Rourke, principal:
AORourke@diobpt.org

Work Hard. Be Kind. Smile. This familiar phrase is the students' version of the St. Mary School mission statement. It is visibly displayed in every classroom. Students and staff are reminded of it at the conclusion of the daily Pledge of Allegiance and morning prayer. But more importantly, it is alive in the hallways and classrooms of St.

Mary School, and it is that hard-to-describe essence that makes St. Mary such a special place.

"Besides providing our children with a locally and nationally recognized top-notch education, St. Mary School has given our children the ability and the desire to see God in everything and everyone. This very special gift is something that no test will be able to score, but we know that their faith will serve them well and often throughout their entire lives," said Chris and Gina Spahn, parents of Tim, Class of '19; Margaret, Class of '21; and alumnae Elizabeth, Class of '14, and Emily, Class of '12 and soon to be Villanova Class of 2020. We have a very active parent and alumni community. Once your student becomes a St. Mary stu-

dent, you are always a part of our family.

Our theme for the 2015-2016 school year is the "Year of Respect." Each month we focus on a different aspect of respect that aligns with our Gospel values. We meet as a community each month, and encourage each other to embody those behaviors, and then recognize the examples that we see. The January theme is Positivity, and at our assembly, Grade 8 students performed skits showing examples of a lack of positivity, and led the school in a discussion of what could be done differently, and then showed skits of positivity in action. The younger students truly look up to the Grade 8 students, and we have seen amazing results with the "Year of Respect."



In addition to a rigorous academic curriculum, French and Spanish are offered to students from Preschool through grade 8. Afterschool Enrichment programs are run several times a year. And we have an optional Strings program for Preschool-Grade 8 and Band for Grades 3-8.

Aftercare is available Monday-

Friday until 5 pm.

We think that St. Mary School is a very special place, but we think the best way for you to learn more is to come visit. We hope you can attend an Open House, but if not, please just call and arrange a tour. We would love to show you our school, students, and staff in action! ■



DISCOVER *something more.*

Our four Catholic Academy schools provide a superior education that nurtures the whole child—mind, body, and spirit.

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- Christ-centered, academically rigorous programs for Grades K-8.
- 100% high school continuation and outstanding college success.
- Challenging, safe, and supportive learning culture.

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203-362-2990 | catholicacademybridgeport.org

OPEN HOUSE EVENTS

ST. ANDREW ACADEMY
(Grades PreK-8)
395 Anton Street
203-373-1552

Saturday, January 30
11:00-12:30

ST. RAPHAEL ACADEMY
(Grades PreK-3)
324 Frank Street
203-333-6818

Wednesday, February 3
2:30-7:00

ST. AUGUSTINE ACADEMY
(Grades 4-8)
63 Pequonnock Street
203-366-6500

Wednesday, February 3
2:30-7:00

ST. ANN ACADEMY
(Grades PreK-8)
521 Brewster Street
203-334-5856

Sunday, January 31
12:00-2:00

Special offer!

Apply by 2/5/16 and we'll waive the Admission Application Fee!

January 2016



Catholic Schools

Shelton

St. Joseph School

St. Joseph School
430 Coram Avenue, Shelton
Pre-K–Grade 8

Open House: Sunday, January 31,
10 am-2 pm
203.924.4669
stjoesschoolshelton.org
Stephen Anderson, principal:
sanderson@diobpt.org

Last school year 2014-2015, students in every grade at St. Joseph School read an average of 38 books because of a school wide Reading Challenge. More than 25 students read over 100 books!

Every one of this year's eighth grade has been admitted to the high school of his/her choice, most receiving scholarship money. All of last year's graduates are on the honor roll at their respective high schools.

St. Joseph School is affiliated with the National Honor Society, and more than half of our eighth

grade class qualifies for membership in the Junior National Honor Society.

Parents' voices say it best: "St. Joseph offers an experience that cannot be offered by other schools," E. and K. Graf.

"Anna is having a wonderful year at St. Joe's! What a great school you are running. We could not be happier with her amazing progress," E. Akter.

"We are seeing this school transform before our very eyes and our son is growing by leaps and bounds because of it. Academically, the bar has been raised higher than ever," A. Mantero.

"From top to bottom, there is dedication to excellence on all fronts," B. and J. Foldvary. "There are no doubts that Kayla is getting the very best exposure to academics as well as Christian values and morals," B. Hansen.

"We are amazed by the academic rigor we have witnessed," N. and P. Vetro.

"Computers and the digital world play an important role in enhancing student education. As a parent and fellow educator, I fully entrust St. Joseph School with the care and well-being of my son, every day," R. Demko. "It is an absolute pleasure to send our girls into a safe environment, full of education and wonder," M. and S. Kudravy.

"I am so grateful to the staff for the time they take to get to know the needs of each student so they are all given the ability to excel as well rounded individuals as well as academically," A. Macdonald.

St. Joseph School offers after school enrichment programs in the fields of Science (Professor Egghead Program), Math (Catholic Math League)



and Student Council (Stephanie Stasiak- 7th grade HR teacher and math teacher grades 5-8), Band (Instructor Kathy Bizub), School Choir (Music/Choir Director Mrs. Keri Salustri). Two dramatic plays are performed throughout the school year. One at Advent/Christmas and the Passion Play during Lent just prior to Easter (Directed by parent Angela Mantero).

The graduating Class of 2016, under the guidance of Father Ray Petrucci and 8th grade teacher

Cindy Okech, wrote their own radio messages on the "True Meaning of Christmas." The students recorded their messages which were played throughout the Christmas season on radio station WICC.

St. Joseph School is a faith-based Catholic learning community which provides a safe environment where students, teachers, parents, and the parish work together to achieve excellence in academics, independent life-long learning, and moral integrity. ■

ALL SAINTS FROM PAGE 36

Shelton

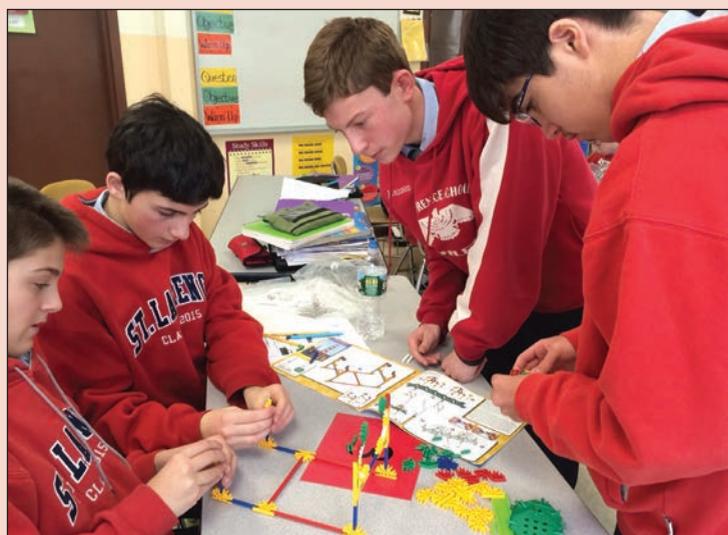
St. Lawrence School

St. Lawrence School
503 Shelton Avenue, Shelton
Pre-K–Grade 8

Open House: Sunday, January 31,
10 am-1 pm
203.929.4422
www.StLawrenceShelton.com
Beth Hamilton, principal:
bhamilton@diobpt.org

St. Lawrence is a family-oriented school that embraces and supports children from preschool through the eighth grade. Every student is recognized and valued!

Teachers encourage the academic, social, emotional, spiritual, and physical development of students throughout the day in a warm and nurturing environment which supports both academic and personal growth. St. Lawrence offers a challenging curriculum with opportunities for advancement and enrichment and technology tools readily available in the form of SMARTBoards, dedicated computer lab, and tablets,



and community service projects which build a sense of service to others and foster compassion.

Students of St. Lawrence School send seasonal cards to the homebound members of St. Lawrence parish. Every month, handwritten cards are sent out to let these parishioners know that students are thinking of them, praying for them, and wishing

them well. When the recipients of the cards sometimes send notes back to the students, the students experience the joy of giving to others.

The best way to experience the benefits of a St. Lawrence education is to visit while our school day is in progress and our students are present. Please come by! ■

Student Ambassador Program, Peer Tutoring Program, Yearbook Club, School Newspaper, Drama, Band, Italian Club, Chess Club, Sign Language Club, Ballet, Violin instruction and an extended day until 5:45 pm

Our students and faculty are practicing 26 Acts of Kindness in memory of the Sandy Hook tragedy. We hold monthly Masses and prayer services, our Buddy program has Middle School students serving as Big Buddies and mentors to our youngest students. Service hours are required for grades 7 and 8, and we plan monthly service projects, food drives, and currently have a partnership with Education and Hope. ■



**A Co-Educational Catholic School
from Pre-K through Grade 5**

1186 Newfield Avenue, Stamford, Connecticut 06905
(203) 322-6505
www.stceciastamford.com

After-School and Extended Day
Bus Service
Community Outreach
Computer Lab
Extracurricular
and Enrichment Programs
STEM Lessons
Early Morning Drop off Program
Financial Aid Available
Library, Art, Music
and Physical Education



A Blue Ribbon School of Academic Excellence

Open House

Sunday, January 31st - 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



TOURS AVAILABLE ANYTIME
Accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges



Catholic Schools

Stamford

Our Lady Star of the Sea School

Our Lady Star of the Sea School
1170 Shippan Avenue, Stamford
Pre-K–Grade 5

Open House: Thursday,
January 21, 10 am-12 noon;
Wednesday, February 3,
9 am-12 noon
203.348.1155
olssschool.org
admissions.olss@gmail.com
Phillip Adzima, principal:
padzima@diobpt.org

Our Lady Star of the Sea School strives to teach a cul-



turally diverse student body to see Christ's reflection in faith and academics by nurturing their individuality and encouraging life-long growth, charting a course for excellence. Our international school population, STEM program and beach location make this an ideal place to let us help you raise your child in the Catholic faith and offer superior academics. OLSS is a home away from home. We educate the whole child while providing a superior Catholic education.

OLSS offers Spanish and computer classes in K-5, and also offers an After School care program and enrichment activities everyday of the week. The grades from K through grade 5 attend Mass with their class once a week as a faith community and the entire school attends once a month. Each grade takes turns leading us in song, prayer and we have trained altar servers and readers.

Our school has tuition financial assistance through the Bishop's Scholarship Fund. ■

Stamford

St. Cecilia School

St. Cecilia School
1186 Newfield Avenue, Stamford
Pre-K–Grade 5

Open House: Sunday,
January 31st, 10:30 am-1 pm
203.322.6505

www.stceciliastamford.com
admissions@stceciliastamford.com
Dina Monti, principal:
dmonti@diobpt.org

A Blue Ribbon School of Academic Excellence, the mission of St. Cecilia School is to foster the growth of life-long learners who strive for academic excellence within a loving, Catholic Christian community. St. Cecilia School opens its doors and welcomes everyone. It provides academic excellence and a value-based education with Computer, Art, Music, Library and Physical Education Classes, and is accredited by the New England Association of Schools & Colleges. An active school life includes many extra-curric-



ular activities and family events planned that include the entire school community. Recently, the school community collected toys for children that otherwise would not have received any for Christmas. In March, we will be participating in the Pennies for Patients campaign to raise money

for Leukemia.

St. Cecilia offers After-School and Extended Day programs, and bus service is available to students living in Stamford.

We are proud of our history of academic excellence and hope you will provide your child with the gift of a Catholic Education. ■

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School-Wilton

A National Blue Ribbon School



**Faith
Knowledge
Respect**

PRE K4 – GRADE 8 OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, January 24th 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tours and Shadow Days available by appointment.

225 Danbury Road, Wilton CT • 203.762.8100 • www.olfcatholic.org

**OUR LADY
STAR OF THE SEA**

1170 Shippan Avenue Stamford, CT 06902
203.348.1155

“CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF CREATING STARS”

Open Houses:
Sunday, January 31st ♦ 10 am to Noon
Wednesday, February 3rd ♦ 9 am to 11 am

www.olssschool.org

CULTURALLY DIVERSE STUDENT BODY

FAITH AND ACADEMICS

CHARTING A COURSE FOR EXCELLENCE

ENCOURAGING LIFE LONG GROWTH

CHRIST'S REFLECTION

January 2016



Catholic Schools

Stamford

Trinity Catholic Middle School

Trinity Catholic Middle School
948 Newfield Avenue, Stamford
Grades 6-8

Open House: Saturday,
February 6, 9-11 am
203.322.7383

trinitycatholicms.com
admissionscoordinator@tcmsct.org
Dr. Patricia Lawler, principal:
plawler@diobpt.org

At Trinity Catholic Middle School we uphold a tradition of academic excellence in a nurturing, faith-filled environment. We focus on delivering an educational experience that not only creates a solid foundation for each student's future academic career but also develops a greater appreciation of their faith and ability to confidently serve their community. We are the only middle school



in the Diocese of Bridgeport. Our State-certified faculty works hard to create an environment that keeps in mind the

many and varied adjustments facing middle school students. Our teachers employ the latest advances in technology to bring

their lesson plans to life for their students. Our faculty and staff take great care to understand the needs of each individual student, to provide a safe and nurturing environment where students can learn and grow as individuals, and to provide guidance so that each student may realize their fullest potential.

Trinity Catholic Middle School offers a variety of extra-curricular activities including competitive sports (football, cheerleading, basketball, ice hockey, baseball, softball, and volleyball) and special interests (Student Council, School Musical, Yearbook, School Newspaper, and various clubs).

Trinity Catholic Middle School incorporates a spiritual component into all phases of

school life. In addition to daily classes in Christian Doctrine, students attend and participate in a weekly Mass to actively pray and celebrate as a community. Our students participate in various devotions, sacramental opportunities, and service projects throughout the school year such as the school's Walk-a-Thon, adopting a child in Guatemala, Thanksgiving Food Drive, Toys for Tots, Hope in Motion Cancer Walk, and Yale Hospital's Tommy Fund to name a few.

Trinity Catholic Middle School offers a full complement of academic courses for our students and prepares them for their high school experience. Students have earned salutatorian and valedictorian honors at acclaimed area high schools. ■

Stamford

Holy Spirit School

Holy Spirit School, 403 Scofieldtown Road, Stamford
Pre-K-Grade 5

Open House: Sunday, January 31, 10 am-1 pm
203.329.1623 • www.holyspiritschool.info

Dina Monte, principal; Marianne Licare, associate principal: mlicare@diobpt.org



Holy Spirit School is committed to providing a Catholic foundation upon which academic excellence and Christian values are nurtured. Our goal is to instill a life-long desire for learning and a genuine love of God and God's people inspiring our students to become faith-filled Christians serving their community.

Our current families would describe our school as a warm and nurturing family atmosphere. To further enrich that, we offer a 2-year-old Little Blessings program. At Christmas time we put up a Giving Tree to benefit the residents of Scofield Manor. The 4th and 5th grade students then went to visit to bring the gifts and homemade cards. They sang Christmas carols and had snacks.

Please visit our website and call for a tour. ■

Girls @ Sacred Heart GREENWICH are original.



Our girls are also confident learners, critical thinkers, and creative problem solvers.

Convent of the Sacred Heart
1177 King Street,
Greenwich, CT
203-532-3534
www.cshgreenwich.org





Catholic Schools

Stratford

St. James School

St. James School
1 Monument Place, Stratford
Pre-K–Grade 8
Open House: Sunday,
January 31, 11 am–2 pm
203.375.5994
www.stjamesstratford.org
admissions@sjssct.org
Jack Lynch, principal:
jack.lynch@sjssct.org

We are a community with over 70 years of rich tradition and history. St. James delivers a welcoming environment where each student's spiritual and academic life will be nurtured to the fullest potential. Our rigorous academic programs offer your child the best preparation to excel in any high school that he or she chooses to attend. Our commitment to the cultivation of your child's intellectual ability, character and faith development is the primary mission of our school. At St. James, we believe that each child is a creation of God, who has unique talents and gifts to offer the world. We invite you to witness our school in action by visiting our campus in historic Stratford.

Parents are viewed as partners in the educational process. The staff and parents at St. James have a shared goal of preparing students to lead and serve in an ever changing world. Our community works together to help our students develop self-respect and respect for others.

Beginning in preschool, our children receive a steady exposure to the arts, technology, foreign language, physical education and music. We believe that each of these areas is critical to the development of their full potential. Through daily prayer and liturgical celebrations, our children strengthen their relationship with God. By participating in community outreach, students learn to be aware of the needs of others. We work hard and celebrate together throughout the year. At St. James, we are a family.

St. James School provides math tutoring, reading support and enrichment beginning in preschool. After school, St. James offers a myriad of extracurricular activities including Strings, Band, Chess, Lego Club and Drama. Our children learn to be team players as they participate in Junior Varsity

and Varsity Basketball, which is open to children in grades 4-8. Intramural sports programs like the Running Club and Karate support the physical growth and development of our students. At St. James, we care for the whole child—mind, body and spirit.

Although we participate in outreach projects every month, Advent and Christmas are wonderful opportunities for us to demonstrate to our St. James students why God calls us to be generous stewards to his children on Earth. The week before Christmas break, our community rallied to share our blessings. Our youngest students, the preschool, kindergarten and first-graders, pre-

sented Sister Eileen of the Sisters of Mercy in Bridgeport with bags full of hats, gloves and mittens. Sister Eileen explained to these little ones about the poor and how God, just like in the story of the Good Shepard, worries and cares for every single child in our world. We then learned about a nearby school that was struggling to provide supplies for its students, so we took up a collection and brought over boxes and bags full of crayons, pencils, tissues and paper for those children so they could have tools to learn with during the day.

"How can kids learn if they don't have pencils and paper?" What a simple but profound ques-



tion that was asked by a St. James third-grader. Another opportunity for us to reflect as a community about our blessings and God's call for each of us to take action, as best as we are able, to support one another as Christians. At St. James, we strive to awaken, in each child, the sense of his or her gifts and the desire to use those

talents to serve others. We believe that this an integral part of our obligation as a school community. We proudly participate in these experiences with our students throughout the year.

In addition to the open house, we invite you to join us and Take-A-Tour on any Tuesday morning between 8-11 am. ■

Stratford

St. Mark School

St. Mark School
500 Wigwam Lane, Stratford
Pre-K–Grade 8
Open House: Sunday, January 31,
9 am–12 noon
203.375.4291
www.stmarkschool.org
Donna Wuhrer, principal:
dwuhrer@diobpt.org

Welcome to St. Mark Catholic School—a school that is rich in tradition, Catholic identity, and academic excellence. We take delight in sharing the vibrancy of our school environment with prospective families. When you visit our school, you will find yourself surrounded by a feeling of friendliness, dedication, cooperation, and most importantly, a sense of family.

Through the sacraments, faith formation, prayer experiences and acts of stewardship and service, our students are taught and encouraged to imitate Christ and deepen their faith. Students are also expected to interact with others in a cooperative, respectful, compassionate manner while maintaining personal dignity and self-discipline.

St. Mark is a Blue Ribbon School: We have been recog-

nized by the U.S. Department of Education as a National School of Academic Excellence. The expectations and challenges of our curriculum prepare our students for the moral, intellectual, social, technological and the physical demands of today's society. Rooted in Gospel values and committed to the highest standards of academic excellence, our teachers dedicate themselves to providing our students with a comprehensive, challenging education.

First and foremost, parents say that St. Mark School is a community...a family...a home! It is a family-oriented school where students feel loved, supported, challenged and safe. Students are encouraged to grow in their faith, embrace learning, serve others with compassion and display integrity in their lives. Tolerance, compassion and respect in response to the differences among people, cultures and traditions are taught and modeled by our teachers.

At St. Mark School, we are proud of our continued growth in technology and safety. We have recently installed Fiberoptics at our school. SmartBoards are used in Kindergarten through Grade 8. We have a computer room with 30 computers for weekly technol-



ogy classes. Twenty-five iPads and an iPad cart were purchased so that students can access information for lessons and projects in their classrooms.

Starting in Pre-K, our students are taught to love and serve Jesus and others through acts of kindness and service. Whether having their hair cut to be donated for wigs for children with cancer, collecting warm coats for those in need or making cards for Veterans, our students know the importance of caring for our brothers and sisters in Christ. This year on the anniversary of 9/11, students gathered to pray for families and friends who lost loved ones and for peace in our world. We also prayed for First Responders, asking God's protection and blessings upon them for their service and sacrifice. We ended our prayer service with the Pledge of Allegiance—using

a special flag. Previously, the students had been given pieces of red or white cloth to write a personal message to our firefighters. The fabric was collected and sewn together to make a 6 x 13 foot flag that is now proudly displayed in our main hallway where it will be displayed until May 4, Firefighter Appreciation Day. At that time, the flag will be presented to the Stratford Fire Department.

We hope that you'll take a closer look at St. Mark School and what it has to offer. Come visit our campus, meet our faculty, and talk with our students. Whether you see students at work on classroom projects, using our state-of-the-art technology, or praying at Mass, you'll see that St. Mark School is a special place to learn and grow. ■

January 2016



Catholic Schools

Trumbull

St. Catherine of Siena School

St. Catherine of Siena School

190 Shelton Road, Trumbull

Pre-K–Grade 8

Open House: Tuesday,

February 2, 8:30-10:30 am

203.375.1947

www.stcatherinesienatrumbull.org

Peter Rodgers, principal:

prodgers@diobpt.org

Welcome to St. Catherine of Siena School! Every day the nurturing, family-like environment at SCSS provides a classical Catholic education centered on the Mass,

sacraments, and Gospel values. Our dedicated faculty, supportive priests, commitment to faith and academics, all work to ensure that our students discern God's plan for each of them. Founded in 1965, St. Catherine of Siena has been successfully shaping the lives of young children for many years.

SCSS is purposefully a small school, fostering close personal connections between students and their peers and students and the adult role models. The faculty is intentional in the ways that they

work with children to build a sense of community and to help them understand their role within this Catholic community. Our goal as educators is not solely in the academic realm, we strive to support students' development in all areas: academic, social, spiritual, emotional, ethical, and physical. St. Catherine of Siena School is a special place for children to grow into young adults.

Please contact us or come for a visit to learn more about what makes SCSS the great school it is. ■



Trumbull

St. Theresa School

St. Theresa School

55 Rosemond Terrace, Trumbull

Pre-K–Grade 8

Open House: Sunday,

January 31, 10:30 am-12 noon;

Monday, February 1, 9-11 am

(snow date Monday, February 8, 9-11 am)

203.268.3236

www.stesonline.org

info@stesonline.org

Salvatore Vittoria, principal:

svittoria@diobpt.org

Celebrating our 60th year of excellence in education, we are located in family-friendly Trumbull. At St. Theresa we grow in Faith, Knowledge, Community and Character. Our Catholic faith is integrated throughout the student experience in all subjects, morning prayer, school Masses, weekly Rosary, and class and school-wide service projects; we close our day with student-led prayer. We provide an academically challenging curriculum in which all students can learn within the framework of Catholic principles, recognizing the dignity and uniqueness of each student. We seek to develop independent, self-disciplined learners who care about those around them.

Our Home School Advisory Board provides the community with family events to spend time together and build friendships. Our School Advisory Board looks to the direction and plan-

ning for St. Theresa's secure future. Our families love to share what's going on at St. Theresa School. Here's what some are saying: "Strong, experienced teachers and communication." "The bulletin boards outside



each classroom are always well done, and the halls are filled with student work." "We like the classic teaching styles mixed with integrated technology to facilitate student learning and prepare for high school." "I am so glad they are teaching cursive writing." "Church and school involvement is strong. Father Gannon, pastor of St. Theresa Parish, really shows an interest in the students and school." "We LOVE the use of Google Classroom." "Communication and availability of teachers for students and parents is great." "I love St. Theresa School; it's like our family."

At St. Theresa, we focus on students' learning through real life, relevant, academic challenges. Students collaborate and engage in the STEM process to design and test solutions for hands-on projects, engaging

the students' ingenuity at the appropriate grade levels. We use Google Apps for Education and Google Classroom, moving our student learning into the Cloud environment with technology. We offer grade level and advanced level math in the middle school. Students make use of our computer lab, as well as a portable Chromebook lab for easy integration of technology into lessons and Smart Board technology. Our students develop their speech writing and public speaking skills with speech competitions: our Living Wax Figure Museum, Science Fair, and Religion Fair. The stu-

dents' experience is magnified by sports, including basketball league for grades 3-8, club activities, and field trips throughout the school year.

Advent is a very special time at St. Theresa School. Our fourth grade creates daily Advent messages of prayer, good deeds and small sacrifices to help us focus on preparing our hearts for Jesus at Christmas. The messages are filmed on a green screen and shared with the school community through the website, lobby screen and Facebook. Our first

grade leads the Advent Liturgy, which is a beautiful Mass with angels, shepherds and the nativity. During the offertory of this Mass each student from kindergarten to eighth grade brings up a gift wrapped for a child in need. The eighth-graders help load the gifts for delivery to St. Margaret's Shrine in Bridgeport. If you would like to learn more about St. Theresa School, call and schedule a tour or arrange a Shadow Day for your student. Financial aid and scholarships are available for families in need. ■

Saint Lawrence School

Pre-School through 8th Grade



Providing a
foundation
of faith
and a lifelong
desire for
learning.

For more information, please visit
www.StLawrenceShelton.com
or call 203-929-4422.

St. Lawrence School | 503 Shelton Avenue | Shelton, CT 06484



Catholic Schools

Wilton

Our Lady of Fatima School

Our Lady of Fatima School

225 Danbury Road, Wilton
Pre-K–Grade 8

Open House: Sunday,
January 24, 10 am–2 pm
203.762.8100

www.olfcatholic.org

Martha Reitman, principal:
mreitman@olfcatholic.org

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School, recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School, has a rich history of Catholic education and academic excellence spanning over 50 years. Programs offered include Pre-K-4 to grade 8 in a faith-based environment that nurtures the whole child and emphasizes strong moral values and respect for self and others. Our small class sizes allow for individualized instruction and mastery of core academic concepts, achieving excellence beyond standardized testing norms. National Junior Honor Society recognition is achieved by the majority of 7th and 8th

grade students. An experienced teaching staff delivers classroom instruction which benefits from the latest innovations in teaching including STEM Curriculum and current technology. Students in grades 6-7-8 can take advanced math classes. We offer enrichment classes in music and art starting in Pre-K-4. Intermediate and Middle School students also receive classes in Technology/Keyboarding and either Spanish or French. Students can also choose from a wide array of extra-curricular activities including sports (Cross Country, Field Hockey and Basketball), music, band, an annual play and special interests. To accommodate working parents, a flexible daily after school program is offered until 6 pm.

The children are taught that FATIMA stands for Faith, Academics, Trust, Manners and Always achieving.

Come experience that Fatima Difference: Faith, Knowledge



and Respect. A new family is not just joining a school; they are joining the Fatima community. The community is intimate, caring and filled with great pride and spirit for the school. Our Home School Association while leading fundraising also provides numerous social opportunities for families.

One of our 7th grade parents

new this year to Fatima recently posted this review on our Facebook page: "Our Lady of Fatima School—5 star! Best decision we ever made! Our daughter is happy smiling! Her grades are excellent! Everyone is nice and welcoming! I feel like a family now!"

A hallmark of the school is the emphasis on "Service above Self," with projects and community

events scheduled throughout the year. During the recent holiday season, outreach efforts included donations to a Gingerbread House Raffle to benefit a school in India, Toys for Tots, A Mitten/Scarf/Hat Tree, and support of Malta House, where families and students generously provided baby care supplies.

Special liturgy celebrations occur throughout the year including the Living Rosary, Celebration of Fatima Day and the Living Stations of the Cross.

The five-day, full day Pre-K-4 program prepares children by providing academic readiness, structure and socialization experiences within a nurturing environment. In fall 2015, the school offered a Pre-K-4 and Kindergarten combination class. While the two are combined for enrichment subjects, the grades are separated for foundational subjects such as Reading and Math to enable more direct instruction by grade and academic level. ■

Fairfield

St. Catherine Academy

St. Catherine Academy

760 Tahmore Drive, Fairfield
Students ages 5-21 who are unable
to thrive in an inclusive setting.

Schedule an individual
appointment

203.540.5381

www.stcatherineacademy.org
info@stcatherineacademy.org

St. Catherine Academy is a state-approved private special education school in the Diocese of Bridgeport serving students impacted by autism, intellectual and developmental disabilities. Through partnerships with public school districts and parents, the Academy provides the best possible academics, vocational and life skills education in a school specially designed for this purpose and an experienced staff committed to this mission.

St. Catherine Academy is a nurturing environment found-



ed on the principle that each person is valued. Students thrive in an environment that helps them to develop independence and valuable vocational and life skills. Students are actively involved in their program. "My child needed a more individualized program

with a peer group that he could relate to. St. Catherine Academy fit that need and his progress has been amazing!" said one parent.

St. Catherine Academy has the focus on core academics, vocational and life skills and an appropriate peer group. The program

is the result of careful integration of academics, life and vocational skills development. The faculty is state-certified educators who are dedicated to the students' social and academic success. As needed, students also receive services from Occupational, Speech and

Physical Therapists. Assistive technology is utilized in the classroom to support and develop academic skills. Some students need a program with an emphasis on life and vocational skills. These needs are not always adequately met in traditional school settings.

St. Catherine Academy has been involved in a special service project for eight years now. Once a month, the students, staff and volunteers gather to make 300 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for Merton House in Bridgeport. It is a project born out of Catholic values of feeding the hungry. We have made over 20,000 sandwiches!

Parents may call 203.540.5381 to schedule a visit. Individual appointments allow for a discussion specific to each child's circumstances and needs. ■

January 2016



Catholic High Schools

Bridgeport

Kolbe Cathedral High School

Kolbe Cathedral High School
33 Calhoun Place, Bridgeport
203.335.2554
www.kolbecaths.org
cougars@kolbecaths.org
Henry Rondon, principal:
hrondon@kolbecaths.org

Kolbe Cathedral High School provides a challenging college prep curriculum in a small, nurturing learning environment. The program consistently places 100 percent of the graduates into colleges of their choice. Members of the school community are expected to "Work Hard and Be Nice!"

Successful completion of four years at Kolbe Cathedral produces an individual who exhibits caring for others in the spirit of Christianity, sharing of knowledge, skills and talents for the good of others and strength of character that dares to make a difference by living the Gospel message.

The school and family form a partnership to foster the development of young Christian men and women; academically, socially, emotionally and physically. Practices and policies serve to create a family environment that

is both welcoming and caring. Parents often comment that they feel their student is in a safe, caring environment where they are known by name; teachers, administrators and staff are all invested in the success of every student.

The schedule utilizes the unique 4 x 4 Block. Classes meet for 80 minutes per day/per semester. Students are scheduled into four courses per semester permitting time for greater in depth focus and understanding in each academic area.

Special programs include Engineering I and II, Biomedical



Science, Entrepreneurship, Mobile CSP and Music Technology. The facility has wireless access throughout and many classes utilize paperless options.

The school community enjoys the privilege of worship in St. Augustine Cathedral, in addition to small group Masses in the St. Maximilian Kolbe Chapel. Many school clubs such as GIFT and Build On provide volunteer service within the school, the greater community and in Third World Countries. Students have annually crocheted scarves for the homeless and the needy, collected winter coats, held food drives and cleaned neighborhoods.

Experience in many of these programs has brought students into the faith through Baptism and the receipt of sacraments with the support of their schoolmates.

Kolbe Cathedral High School is the most affordable private, Catholic school in Fairfield County. Financial Aid and Scholarships are available. Additionally, KCHS is a partnership school with Shepherds, Inc., a non-profit that assists families with tuition and mentoring.

Fairfield University provides generous Community Partnership Grants to KCHS grads ranging from 25-100 percent tuition assistance.

Danbury

Immaculate High School

Immaculate High School
73 Southern Boulevard, Danbury
203.744.1510
www.immaculatehs.org
tburns@myimmaculatehs.org
Joseph Carmen, principal:
jcarmen@myimmaculatehs.org

The academic programs offered at Immaculate High School are designed to prepare the whole student for college and beyond. We offer an extensive, rigorous NEASC accredited program. Faculty and staff work together to create an engaging community that enables students to master the skills needed to become lifelong learners who live their Catholic faith.

We have 465 students from 18 area communities. Ten percent of our student population is from an international middle school. Immaculate is ranked #8 Catholic School (niche.com) in the State of Connecticut, and has the highest SAT scores among diocesan schools.

Academic challenge is available through CP, Honors, AP, Virtual and ECE courses. Immaculate has 43 sports teams and 45 extra-curricular activity and fine arts programs.

Students participate in

for volunteering over 100 hours of community service in a school year. Students volunteer weekly for Catholic Charities programs, the John Paul II Healthcare Center as well as for a number of parish and local service organizations. In the 2014-15 school year, 17,838 hours of service were completed by our students.

During the 2015 Advent season, students collected 500 boxes of cereal for Dorothy Day House, participated in the NYC Midnight Run program, collected books for the United Way program Ready, Set, Let's Read!, raised \$2,260 for

the Danbury Department of Health and Human Services Adopt-A-Family program, collected pennies for the She's the First program, baked cupcakes to raise monies for the IHS #GivingTuesday fundraiser, collected toys for local families

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 47



St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School

Building a Strong Foundation in Faith & Knowledge

Educating Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 8



*Our Mission: St. Thomas Aquinas School community strives for **academic excellence** in a faith-filled **Catholic environment** that encourages children to reach their full potential and to become **life long learners**. By word and example, we teach our students to model **Christ's message of love**.*

1719 Post Road ~ Fairfield, CT 06824 ~ 203-255-0556
~ www.stasonline.net ~

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin








Catholic High Schools

Fairfield

Notre Dame High School

Notre Dame High School

220 Jefferson Street, Fairfield
203.372.6521

notredame.org

admissions@notredame.org

Christopher Cipriano, principal:
ccipriano@notredame.org

Our mission is to grow our students in Character, Faith, and Intellect. We pride ourselves in our family community atmosphere and student diversity. Our students are active in the

community and are constantly giving back. They get into the top colleges and universities in the country. Our current students would describe our school in one word: Family. We have a learning environment incomparable to those around us. We describe our school as reality—a mix of students from 35 different local cities and towns. We have had a large spike in our enrollment over the past few years. With the launch of our new Distinguished

Scholars Program, we have the academic atmosphere that students need to be challenged on a daily basis. We offer 15+ AP courses, and also offer college credits through UCONN and Sacred Heart University. Through Virtual High School, our students are able to take many advanced AP as well as advanced elective and foreign language courses. We prepare our students for college.

We were recently featured on NBC National News for our



schools commitment to service. They highlighted a specific service campaign we do yearly honoring the victims of the Sandy

Hook Tragedy. The feedback from the clip has been amazing. It embodies all that our students are about here at ND Fairfield. ■

Congratulations to the Fairfield Prep Class of 2016 on your early acceptance to:

University of Alabama
University of Arizona
Bentley University
Boston College
Bowdoin College
Case Western Reserve University
Catholic University of America
Christendom University
Clemson University
University of Colorado Boulder
Creighton University
Curry College
University of Dallas
Drexel University
Eastern Connecticut State University
Elon University
Fairfield University
Fordham University
Franklin Pierce University
Furman University
Gannon University
Georgetown University
George Mason University
University of Georgia
Hamilton College
Harvard University
High Point University
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Hofstra University
College of the Holy Cross
Indiana University
Iona College
John Carroll University
University of Kentucky



Louisiana State University
Loyola University Maryland
Loyola University Chicago
Manhattan College
Marist College
Merrimack College
Michigan State University
University of Missouri
Nichols College
Northeastern University
University of Notre Dame
Pennsylvania State University
Providence College

University of Pittsburgh
Purdue University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
University of Richmond
Sacred Heart University
Saint Joseph's University
Salve Regina University
Santa Clara University
University of Scranton
Seattle University
Seton Hall University
Siena College

University of South Carolina
University of Southern California
University of Southern Maine
St. Anselm College
St. Bonaventure University
St. Edward's University
St. Michael's College
Stonehill College
University of Tampa
Temple University
University of Tennessee
Thomas Aquinas College
Tulane University
Union College
Ursinus College
Villanova University
Wake Forest University
Washington College
Whittier College
Williams College
College of William and Mary
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Xavier University



Fairfield College
Preparatory School

A Jesuit, Catholic School of Excellence

www.fairfieldprep.org

January 2016



Catholic High Schools

Trumbull

St. Joseph High School

St. Joseph High School
2320 Huntington Turnpike, Trumbull
www.sjcadets.org
admissions@sjcadets.org
Dr. James Keane, principal:
jkeane@diobpt.org

St. Joseph High School strives to be the premier college preparatory school in Southern Connecticut. The school provides a learning environment that embraces the Gospel values of the Roman Catholic faith and promotes a commitment to family and community. Serving a co-ed student body of over 800 students from over 25 different towns, our SJ community is committed to providing rigorous academics, vibrant social experience, superior college placement, and a supportive community. The college

preparatory curriculum focuses on multidimensional learning that prepares our students for college: 100 percent college placement!

The extracurricular activities cover a wide variety of interests including competitive athletics, community service, and a variety of student clubs. Each student/family at St. Joe's chose us for their own reason, but, nevertheless, each is proud to call themselves a St. Joe's Cadet. Current students and their families describe our school as something more than just a "school." You are empowered to challenge yourself inside and outside the classroom as you discover your potential for a successful personal and professional life. Students understand that St. Joe's provides a foundation to guide them throughout their lives, in

addition to their four years with us.

St. Joe's academics are challenging across the entire curriculum. The College Preparatory curriculum, Honors courses, and Advanced Placement courses are tailored to meet the interest of the student. We offer 17 Advanced Placement courses from which students can receive college credits. We also offer direct college courses in partnering with Sacred Heart University and UCONN Virtual Classroom allows our curriculum to expand across a distance learning platform and take courses online. St. Joe's provides extensive academic resources in the form of a Writing Center, Math/Science Tutoring, College Counseling Office, Freshmen Focus, and Teacher Office Hours. St. Joe's has a 1:1 iPad envi-



ronment. Every student has an iPad and it is used throughout the school day and for home assignments. Extracurricular activities expand on academic interests such as National Honors Society, Stock Market Club, Robotics, and more. The Fine Arts program provides opportunities such as ceramics, steel drum band and theater productions. Athletic teams compete in the FCIAC, one of the single most competitive conferences in the state of Connecticut.

We are proud to be a Catholic school, but we also welcome students and families of all denomi-

nations and religious backgrounds. Our school Mass is celebrated once a month, and we also hold a morning Mass in our chapel, start our day with prayer, and include religious studies within the curriculum. The faith is present every day and we often describe how this commitment to faith is best seen in how the students treat one another.

Visit, visit, visit! If you are interested in scheduling a shadow appointment or school tour, please call 203.378.9378, ext 308. To be kept timely on all things St. Joe's, visit our website at sjcadets.org/admissions.

Stamford

Trinity Catholic High School

Trinity Catholic High School
926 Newfield Avenue, Stamford
203.322.3401
www.trinitycatholic.org
Open House: Tuesday,
February 2, 8-10 am
(snow date February 4)
Dr. Joseph Gerics, principal:
jgerics@trinitycatholic.org



Trinity Catholic is a Christ-centered community committed to educating tomorrow's leaders within the Roman Catholic tradition. An atmosphere of respect and reverence ensures that each student grows spiritually, morally, intellectually and physically.

Trinity Catholic is family. Students support each other and the faculty and our staff provide the guidance each student needs to be able to grow. The school fosters an environment for student growth and the development of high personal expectations.

All students have iPads and the campus is totally wireless with a state-of-the-art Apple Mac lab and Apple TVs, we have a UCONN Early College

Experience and Trinity offers eight AP courses. We will be instituting a Scholars Program for the 2016/2017 academic year

Trinity, a member of FCIAC, has a new sports field with artificial turf, which should be completed by the fall of 2016.

Our Campus Ministry Club plans our monthly liturgies, selecting readings and music, singing and serving at the Mass, and Trinity holds special Advent and Lent penance services. Retreats are held for each grade level. Our students consistently have over 10,000 hours of community service each year, and we hold various drives throughout the school

year including a food drive at Thanksgiving, toy drive at Christmas and Socks of Support for our troops. A summer mission trip is available to students.

Our curriculum is tailored to meet the individual needs of students. Educating the student as a whole ensures personal success and positive contributions to the entire school.

Seniors at Trinity Catholic have received numerous early acceptances to colleges throughout the country. Out of the 102 senior class, they have already totaled \$1.6 million in student scholarships with more to come!

IMMACULATE FROM PAGE 45

in need and participated in our annual Acts of Kindness program.

"I have one child at IHS and one who graduated last year," said one parent. "I can't say enough good things about this school! My children love it. The teachers are dedicated and strict, but very fair and always available for extra help if needed. My son, who graduated last year, is at a highly competitive college, and is doing fabulously, a big part due to what he learned at IHS."

From students: "The relationships that you build at Immaculate are the ones you are going to cherish the most." — Samantha Thuesen '15.

"Immaculate is still home to me. My advice is to take what you learn to heart and be sure to cherish the moments that you have at this great place." — Ben Arne '15.

Visit our school website and Facebook to learn more about why Immaculate High School is the right choice for you!



ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

88 years of superior educational tradition.
Our graduates learn for a lifetime.

Join us for our Catholic Schools' Week
Open House - Sunday, January 31
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

430 Coram Avenue, Shelton, Connecticut 06484 | 203-924-4669



LIVING, LEARNING AND SHARING OUR FAITH

"Sustaining and expanding our schools is a generational challenge. It is time to roll up our sleeves, celebrate the good work of Catholic education and bring our schools to the next generation."

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano

On behalf of Bishop Frank J. Caggiano and the Diocese of Bridgeport,
**we would like to thank the following sponsors for making
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of Catholic education along to the next generation.

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